

**A TRANSLATION
OF DANTE'S
PARADISO BY
DAVID JOHNSTON**



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A TRANSLATION
OF
DANTE'S PARADISO.





MARINER

DE

M. A. T. E.

EX TRO CANTU DE SANCTA MARIA, DE PAVIA.

~~~~~

Alte marte d'el ghebole  
 Bate la carna, che se d'ore a ore,  
 A volte l'aria me caga il petto.

IL MARINER, Canto II, Strofa III.

~~~~~

De per me vint via tutt' l'altre. Devo a più
 Che vena, mi l'proprio mi per me aglio,
 Del Povero d'ora.

Emmèrle Schied.



TRANSLATION

DANTE'S PARADISO,

DAVID JOHNSTON



In light and gladness a beam,
 Unclouded & unimpeded a gleam,
 One of the better world's joys to share,
 Be not its joys to others to impart.

Nov. 7, 1864, N.Y.

NOTE

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—
 1864-1865.

TO MY DEAR WIFE
I DEDICATE MY TRANSLATION
OF THE "ELEGIES"

In the last Circle of the Purgatorio Dante was left in the other Hemisphere, and on the summit of the Mount of Purgatory, under the Meridian Circle, thus being the position of the earthly Paradise. The Paradise opens with the ascent of Beatrice and the Poet towards the starry firmament. They first approach the convexity of the sphere of fire, which is the same as the convexity or superficies of the air through which they had passed. They are then carried upwards into the concavity of the Moon, from whence they pass into that of Mercury, which is the same as the convexity of the Lunar Heaven. In this manner they ascend from planet to planet, until they reach the concavity of the Primum Mobile, or Sixth Sphere. Above this is situated the Empyrean Heaven, the infinite abode of the Almighty, which, itself immovable, moves and rules the whole universe. It will be perceived, then, that Dante follows the astronomical system of Ptolemy. He places the earth immovable in the centre of the universe. Around it he makes the different spheres or heavens to revolve in orbits circular and concentric; the swiftness of their respective movements being in the order of their distance from the centre. These heavens are, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn; the eighth is that of the Fixed Stars; the ninth is the Primum Mobile, which imparts its movement on the others. Above, beyond, and around them all is the Empyrean.

The Heavenly Paradise is described by the Poet as being in the form of a pure white rose. The leaves are so many rows of souls on which sit the saints clothed in

white robes. On one of the most embellished seats Dante sees the Virgin Mary, under whom, in gradation down to the pale centre of the rose, which is a mighty blaze of fervent light, are seated the Hebrew women of the Old Testament celebrated for their faith. On the opposite part is seated John the Baptist, and under him, in similar manner by gradation, the spirits contemplative of the New Covenant. These and the Hebrew women divide the rose, as by a partition, into two equal portions, and these are again subdivided towards the centre of the flower. On the right of Mary are the elect of the New Covenant, occupying the half of one of the first divisions. On the right of the Baptist are the saints of the Old Covenant similarly situated.

From the middle of the rose downward on the right of Mary are the Infants of the New Testament saved by baptism. On the right of the Baptist are those Infants who have been saved by the faith of their parents and by circumstances. The above divisions present this difference: that whilst the seats of the Old Testament saints are all occupied, those of the New Testament saints are partially unoccupied, the empty seats being reserved for the souls yet to be saved.

Over the rose in form of a canopy is the Tribunal of God, around which circulate for ever the nine orders of angels, forming three Hierarchies. These are continually descending into and re-ascending from the body of the rose.

The Poet believes Paradise to exist in the Elysian Heaven alone, yet he places the spirits of the blent in the different lower spheres, in the same manner as he partitions the spirits in Purgatory and in Hell. They are

Was placed by him to show the measure of their height, and
Speaking of the lower sphere, he says in Canto IV. of the
Paradise, line 37—

*Qui il montana non parlo vertice
Ma quanta spaza ha, non per la copia
Della celestia ch'ha men vertice.*

The quite truly *shide* in Paradise last we seen in the
lower sphere that Dante might perceive by some the
extent of their height; for as Aristotle says, "*Field et
is intellectus non prout fuerit in sensu*;" or, as the Poet
himself expresses the same sentiment in Canto IV., line
41, of the Paradise—

*Parvulus non de cunctis apparet
Circuli de parva et intellectus degree*

The seven lower spheres or planets then show the seven
degrees of height; in the eighth sphere, or that of
the fixed stars, are represented the triumphs of Christ;
in the ninth, or Primum Mobile, are the nine choirs of
angels circling round the Almighty, represented as a point
of intense light. The Empyrean, or highest heaven,
is the Paradise or immediate shade of the Trine and
eternal God, the centre of everlasting praise and adoration
to the two Hosts of Heaven.

So ends the vision of Dante, and with the following
words he terminates the Divine Comedy, and teaches a
lesson for all men to follow—

*All'alta fantasia qui muta passo,
Ma già volgeva il suo diadema il sole,
Ei come mont' che iguala colà è monte,
L'Amor che muove il sole e l'altre stelle.*

11, Marlborough Buildings,
Dor., 1858

CANTO I.

Ulysses and Diomedes, having gained the Sarcophagi Foundation, gaze steadily towards the Elysium. The first is filled with wonder at the marvellous light which emanates thence. The latter, by doubts, and Diomedes creates them.

The glory of the All-mighty, Lord supreme,
Paradise creation, and refulgent dawn,
In one part brighter, in another less.
In that high heaven most lustrous with His light
I was, and things I saw which to repeat 1
He who from thence descends knows not nor dreads;
For near the object of his great desire,
So deeply ponder man's intelligence,
That to such depths no memory travels back.
And yet no track of that celestial realm 2
As I had power to treasure in my mind
Shall furnish now the matter of my song.
Oh, good Apollo, in my latest work
Make me as rich a vessel of thy strength
As thy beloved laurel shall demand. 3

One moment of *Perseus* until this

Belonged to me, but now my need is both,

That I may enter the remaining lot.

Into my bosom pass, there breathe thy strain,

As when thine angry *Maregus* roared,

10

His limbs unheaving from their covering skin.

Oh, *Faust* *Urania*, if Thou wilt grant

So much of *Thee* that of the blessed realm

I may deserve the shadow I return,

Then shall *Thee* see no more the plant beloved,

15

And with its leaves my hand in honour crown,

Made worthy by my subject and by thee.

Leaves plucked so seldom, Father, to adorn

A *Cæsar's triumph*, or a poet's name;

(Through the disgrace and shame of men's desire !)

20

That when the fresh child of *Pæon's* wave,

In sought with true desire, I must bring forth

Fresh both of joy to the glad *Delphic* god.

A mighty flame a little spark excites ;

So after me perhaps with colder words

25

Such prayer may rise that *Cæra* shall respond.

At different points to mortal upward rolls

The leap of the great world ; but from that point

Where the four circles the three crosses form,

With lower course, and with a greater star

30

Conjoined it rises, and the grandeur war

It moulds and tempers to its own sweet ways.

At such a point it made the morning there,
 And evening here,—and almost brightness shone
 In that far hemisphere, and darkness here,
 10 When I saw Desires towards the left
 Move round, and back unblenching on the sun,
 Never so fearless was the eagle's gaze.
 But as the second ray is wont to spring
 Reflected from the first, again to rise,
 20 As the far pilgrim would to home return,
 So through the eyes transmitted by her act
 To my perception, was my own conceived,
 And not as started on the run I gazed.
 30 Much is permitted there not here allowed
 To scenes of man, so hallowed is the place
 Made for the human race the proper house.
 Not long my gaze, and yet not small my course,
 Before I saw the sun irradiant flash,
 40 As when the iron from the furnace flows.
 And suddenly it seemed that to the day
 A day was added, as if power supreme
 Had with another sun the heavens adorned
 With eyes fixed wholly on the eternal wheel
 50 Scold Desires; and I, with mine withdrawn
 From the great sun and fixed on her alone,
 Was by her aspect as consumed within
 As Glaucon when he tasted the green herb,
 And shared the nature of the ocean gulls.

How soon my rise to science more than meets
 No tongue can tell, but this example serves
 For whom the experience is reserved by grace.
 If I were now that part alone of self
 Lost turned by Thee, oh, Ruler ! love divine !
 Thou knowest, for Thy light hath brought me here.
 When that relation Thou eternal meet'st,
 Thou all-dearest ! draw me still towards
 With a most sweet and measured harmony,
 So widely seemed the heavenly sphere to burn
 With the sun's heat, that neither rise nor set
 Formed over him so ample in its bounds
 The universe of the world and the great light
 Inflamed me with desire to know the cause,
 Such had I never felt so strong and true.
 So she who saw me as myself I saw,
 To tranquillize the trouble of my mind,
 Ere I had time to ask, unfolded her lips,
 And thus began—"Thou mak'st thyself so dull
 " With false imaginings, that thou canst not see
 " What would be clear if thou wert cast aside.
 " On earth thou art not as thou seem'st to think;
 " But lighting thee not from its proper home
 " Swift as thou now returnest unto thine."
 If from my first doubt I was thus relieved
 By her sweet words and their attending smile,
 A new doubt held me tighter in its net;

And so I said—"I am content, and rest

"From our great wonder; but I marvel now

"How through such subtle bodies I can mount."

After a sigh with holy pity fraught,

100

She turned to me her eyes, wearing the look

A mother casts upon her crying child ;

And thus began—"All things created hold

"One of another, and in this consist

"The Rheme which creation bears to God.

105

"Hence all reasoning creatures own the mark

"Of the Eternal power, which is the end

"For which this very law has been ordained.

"By the great rule I speak of are inclined

"All beings, of whatever essence these,

110

"More or less closely to the Final Cause ;

"Wherefore as destined they are upwards moved

"Through the great sea of being, and to each

"Is given the instinct to attain its end.

"By this is fire borne upwards to the moon ;

115

"This is the motive power in mortal hearts ;

"It binds and holds in within the gross earth.

"Not only creatures, who no portion have

"Of pure intelligence, the low angels,

"But those who know both intellect and love.

120

"That Providence, whose wisdom rules all,

"With its own light the heaven makes ever pure,

"Under which rolls the wheel of the spheres.

- " And then to it as to a place decreed,
" The tension of this need transported up 10
" Whence'er it pointed to that blisful mark.
" True is it that as form does not agree
" Always with what the artist's mind intends,
" Because the answering matter is inert,
" So from this cause instinctive breaks away 20
" At times the creature, which is given the power
" To take, though thus impelled, the other part,
" (And as it may be seen that fire can fall
" Down from the slender cloud), if proud heat
" In by like pleasure to the earth allured. 30
" Therefore, methinks, thou wouldst not wonder more
" At those sweet than at a stream which flows
" Down from some lofty mountain to a plain,
" As great the wonder were, if being freed
" From every hindrance, thou wert bound to earth, 40
" As if the living fire were so content."

Then having said she turned her gaze to heaven.

CANTO II

Death enters into the lower domain. He makes an explanation of the shadowy marks observed from the Earth on the surface of the Moon. Further explains.

Oh ye, who in your slight and fragile bark,
 With eager wish to listen, follow close
 In my ship's wake, whilst singing holds her way,
 To your own shores turn ye your course again,
 Tempt not the open ocean, fit perchance
 In losing me, your ruin shall be sure.
 Upon the sea I dare none ever sail'd,
 Minerva breathes, Apollo guides my helm,
 And the Nine Muses point the guiding beam.
 And ye, the other few who turn in time
 To the true bread of angels, fed by which,
 Men live, but can never surfeit know,
 Through the salt deep in safety you may plough,
 Keeping the furrow open which I make
 Before you in the vast so quick to close

Those glorious Greeks who sailed to Colchis' strand,
 Felt not the winter you have yet to feel,
 When they saw Jason guide the labouring ox.
 The increase and everlasting thirst.

For God's own Holy Kingdom bore us on,
 Swift almost as you see the harness revolve.
 Upward looked Beatrice, and I looked on her ;
 And in such instant as an arrow flies
 Between the slackened cord and stricken mark,
 I was in body where a marvel turned
 Mine eyes towards back, and then did she,
 From whom my mind's desire could not be had,
 Bend round to me as glad as beautiful,
 And say,—“ To God thy grateful spirit runs,
 “ For He hath brought us to the nearest star.”

It seemed as if a cloud enveloped us,
 Shining and dense, solid and smooth without,
 Like to a diamond which the sun has struck,
 Into itself the mass, colored pearl,
 Drew us, as water takes into itself
 The luminous ray, and still unbroken rests.
 If I was matter, if none here coercive
 How in one space two bodies co-exist,
 Which meet, if body body penetrate ;
 How much more mighty should be the desire
 That Beatrice to behold, in which is seen
 How to its God our nature can be joined.

Him we shall see whom we now hold by faith,

Not by the senses, but at once discerned,

As a first truth no wiser man believes.

"Lady," I answered, "with my whole heart's strength

"I strive to worship, and to Him give thanks,

"Who thus hath brought me far from mortal things

"But tell to me what are these stains obscure

"On the mason's surface, whence on earth below

"Cometh the common fable told of Cain."

She answered, gently smiling,—"If mankind

"In their opinions into error fall,

"Whom with the key of reason they would unlock,

"Surely 'tis not for thee to be so stirred

"With wonder / since if reason alone be guide,

"Then knowest well that reason leads behind.

"But tell me what thine own thoughts be discern."

I said :—"The varied aspect seen above

"Metaphors is caused by matter rare and dense."

"Truly," she said, "shall thy belief be found

"Submerged in error, if thou hast not well

"To the opposing argument I urge.

"In the eighth sphere celestial are displayed

"Lights many, which by brightness or by size

"In aspect vary to the gaze's eye.

"If thus the effect alone of rare or dense,

"One only influence would subsist in all,

"More or less spread as the proportion held.

- " A various influence must be the fruit 29
 " Of varied causes, and yet sure one,
 " These, as their treatment, age-existent were.
- " Further, if verify the lunar stains
 " Caused, and the question solved, either in parts
 " Void of its matter would the planet be 35
- " Throughout its bulk, or as we find disposed
 " The fat and lean in bodies, so would this
 " Throughout its volume have its leaves unamed.
- " If true the one, it would be clearly seen,
 " Far in the sun's colque his light would pass 40
 " Lost as it penetrates some other void.
- " It is not so ; therefore we now must look
 " Into the other, which if I refute,
 " Then thy opinion shall by proof be false.
- " If the void pass not wholly through the moon 45
 " Somewhere it must have end, and at such point
 " By the opposing matter light is barred ,
- " And then the solar ray reflection gives,
 " Just as a colour passing through a glass
 " Which has a leaden lining at its back. 50
- " But thou wilt say that in those spots the ray
 " Shews back darker than in other parts,
 " By being reflected further from within.
- " From this instance ray return be found,
 " If thou wilt seek it in experiment, 55
 " The fount from which all human knowledge springs.

- " Three mirrors thou shalt place, two from thyself
 " Distant, alike, the third one more remote,
 " Reaching thine eye between the other two.
 " If then behind thee and towards thee turned 100
 " A light be placed which shall illumine them,
 " And from them all back to thy vision come,
 " Although in one proportionate the light
 " Is in the furthest smaller, thou shalt note
 " That yet it shineth as the others do. 120
 " Now as when strikers by the heated ray
 " Divided is the substance of the snow,
 " Both of its whiteness and its proper cold,
 " So thus intelligence, made void like this,
 " I would replenish with a living light, 130
 " Such as shall make it radiant as a star.
 " Beneath the heaven supreme of peace divine
 " A lower rolls, and in its vortex rests
 " The masses of all things which it contains.
 " The deepest heaven, so rich with starry eyes, 140
 " Its influence sends to numerous spheres,
 " Distinct from it yet in itself contained.
 " The other spheres, according as enclosed,
 " The proper virtue resident in each
 " To its own objects and effects dispose 150
 " Thus work these members of the universe,
 " As thou now seest them, in gradation clear,
 " And what each takes above it gives below.

- " Observe me well, consider well the way
 " Which I now take to reach thy heart's desire, 120
 " So of thyself the river thou shalt ford.
 " Movement and virtue in these holy spheres,
 " As from the workman comes the chisel's art,
 " Must come from breathings of the angelic host.
 " And the heaven beautiful with countless stars, 125
 " From the deep impress of its motor mind,
 " Receives the stamp, and then becomes the end.
 " And as the soul, within thy frame of dust,
 " Into its various organs, all designed
 " For various acts and functions, is resolved, 130
 " So doth this ruling mind its force divine
 " Through myriad orbs and manifold refuse,
 " What its own unity it still retains.
 " This various virtue variously affects
 " Each stellar glory, which it maketh quick 135
 " By junction with it, just as life in man.
 " From the glad nature whence itself derived,
 " The power diffuses through the body shines,
 " As gladness through the living eye.
 " And hence that difference cometh which is seen 140
 " Twixt light and light, not because dense or rare ;
 " This is the cause intrinsic which creates,
 " As rules its energy, the dark or light."

CANTO III.

*The First was to the West, the Spirit of each nation true, addition to their religious
views, and the thousand enjoy a lower degree of glory than the other side to. He
was the Spirit of Power, Strength of Soul, and the the Emperor Constantine
Further distinguished up.*

That was, which crowns his head my heart with love
Had shown me both by proof and by disproof
The sweetest sweet of a most gracious truth,
And to confirm myself at once convinced
Of truth and error, for as needed was,
My head I raised as speaking more sweet.
When, lo ! what seemed a vision held me stayed
So fully on itself, itself to know,
That all remembrance of confusion fled.
As in transparent glass flawless throughout,
Or perhaps water clear and undisturbed,
But not so deep as to conceal its bed,
Our features came to us reflected back
So faint, a pearl upon a snow-white brow
Shines not the pupil with more inside ray,

She said—"Our charity is never sold.

"To a just wish, then were it not like His

"Who with that all His court His likeness wears. 40

"On earth a virgin sister I was named ;

"And if thou look on me with mortal eye,

"Me shall my holier beauty not conceal

"But that thou recognise Fiordisi's form,

"Who with those other blessed ones are placed, 45

"Should myself, in heaven's least rapid sphere.

"All our desires, which by the love alone

"Of the most Holy Spirit are inflamed,

"Fired in the order of His will are glad ;

"And thus our place assigned, which seems so low, 50

"Is given to us because our vows were left

"Neglected, and in measure unfilled."

"In these your wondrous aspects," then I said,

"Shineeth I know not what of light divine,

"Which changes you from what I first conceived ; 55

"Therefore in my remembrance I was slow ;

"But what thou now hast said gives me such help,

"Your features I can easily read,

"But tell me, ye who are so happy here,

"Sour not your wishes to a higher place 60

"Where He is nearer, and more full His love !"

First with the other shades she gently smiled,

And then she answered with so glad a mien

She seemed with love unable to burn ;

- "Brethren," she said, "our wills are quite content, 19
 " For in the strength of mighty love we wait
 " Only what we possess and nothing more.
 " If we should crave a higher sphere to reach,
 " Then our desire would in disturbance be
 " With Him whose will our place for us decreed ; 20
 " And discord in these orbs may not be found,
 " For if we have must wholly dwell in love,
 " And that love's quality is staided well,
 " Knowledge rather in the blessed state
 " Is being held within the will of God, 21
 " Because, if so, then all our wills are one.
 " Therefore as we are spread from heaven to heaven
 " Throughout that realm, the realm entire is pleased,
 " As He, the King, who wills us to His will ;
 " And as His will it is our peace resides ; 22
 " It is the same whether all things move
 " By His created or by nature made."
 Then clear to me it was that every spot
 In heaven is Paradise, although the gates
 Of the First Good shewers not on all sides. 23
 But as it is if our fixed intention,
 And for another still desire remains,
 We pray for thee, for that we render thanks,
 So was it with myself in act and word,
 Seeking from her to know why in the web 24
 She did not draw the shuttle to the end.

- " A perfect life, a holier merit placed
 " A saint in higher bliss," was her reply,
 " Whose rule by red and haken hands on earth
 " Those who till death both day and night must live 100
 " With Him, the spouse who every vow accepts,
 " Which to His pleasure is by love confirmed.
 " To follow her from the great world I feel,
 " Truthful in years, and in her habit clothed,
 " I vowed through life her holy rule to keep. 105
 " But men more used to evil than to good
 " From the sweet cluster dragged me forth by force ;
 " God knows alone the sequel of my life !
 " This other glorious spirit, who is now
 " Here at my right, and who in brightness glows 110
 " With all the full refulgence of our sphere,
 " Knows what I say applies to her as well ;
 " A sister—from her love, as from my own,
 " Was torn the covering of the sacred veil.
 " But when brought back to the great world again, 115
 " Against her will, against all custom pure,
 " The veil was never loosened from her heart.
 " Of great Constantia, lo ! thou meet the soul,
 " Who by the sacred pride of Sardin's house
 " Conceived the third, and of her presence lost." 120
- Such were her words, then she began to chant
 As Maria, trampling on song
 As through deep water heavy broken globe.

Mine eyes, which followed her so long as power

Was thine to trace her as she passed away, 127

Turned to the object of more fond desire—

With my whole soul to Beatrice I looked ;

But she so flashed upon me, for a time

I could not bear the glory of her looks ;

And so more tardy my requests became, 130

CANTO IV.

Beats is still affected by doubts respecting the State and Election of the Electors and also concerning Will, mind and electricity. He makes to leave if not compensation can be made for losses won in the performance of other good deeds.

Between two minds distant sits and each
 Alike seductive, with the power to choose,
 One might of hunger die before he ate,
 Just so between two fierce and hungry wolves
 A lamb would stand, in deadly dread of both ;
 And thus between two dogs would stand a deer.
 Therefore if I were silent, by my doubts
 With equal force impelled, I take no blame,
 And, as it was necessary, no praise.
 Silent I was, but pained on my face
 Was my desire, and with it my request,
 More pressing than if by words conveyed.
 And now did Beatrice that which Dante did,
 He'edless of danger coming from his eyes,
 Rays which had made him ruthlessly unjust.

- She said—"I clearly see how threats there on
 " Thy double wish, so that thy wishes will
 " Is so self-detracted, outward utterance fails.
 " Then reasonest thou—H. Will remain resolved,
 " Why should the violence of another's crime
 " Make less the measure which my merit claims? I
 " This further proves to thee a mass of doubt,
 " That spirits in the stars seem to return,
 " As Plato in his argument affirms.
 " There are the questions which upon thy mind
 " Weigh with an equal weight, and therefore first
 " That will I touch on which hath most of gill.
 " Ha, of the scriptures meet one with God,
 " Moses and Samuel, and the other John,
 " No matter which, my blessed Mary's self,
 " Have not their resting place in other heaven
 " Than that in which those thou now wilt see,
 " Nor rest in bliss, some more, some fewer years;
 " But all make fair the Elysian sphere,
 " And their beatitude is more or less,
 " As on each one the eternal glory breathes.
 " Here they are seen, not because they are deemed
 " To this the least sphere, but to give proof
 " That they in heaven possess the lowest state.
 " To reach thy mind need is there than to speak,
 " Since only from material things it learns
 " What aftermost waits in the intellect.

- It is for this that Scripture condemns
 " To man's capacity, and feet and hands
 " To God attributes, though it seems it not; 20
 " And Holy Church with aspect human brings
 " Gabriel and Michael to man's mortal sense,
 " And the Archangels who Tobias bled.
 " The remaining of Timothee on the soul
 " Resembles not that which is retained here, 25
 " For what he says it seems that he believes.
 " He says the soul returns to its own star,
 " Believing that it first was starr'd from thence,
 " When nature made it spirit to the moon.
 " Perhaps his meaning points at something else 30
 " Than bear the words he speaks, and it may be
 " Has a significance we may not slight,
 " If it be this, that to those orbs return
 " The haunts of their influence and its blame,
 " Perhaps in some respects he holds the truth. 35
 " Ill understood the principle used
 " Almost the world entire, which erring named
 " The planets Mercury, and Mars, and Jove.
 " The other doubt which in thy spirit stirs
 " Hath less of reason, for its reason fails 40
 " The power to separate between thee and me.
 " If then our justice shall appear exact
 " To the dull eye of mortals, 'tis the test
 " Of faith, not cause of wicked loyalty.

- " But that thy understanding may have force 75
 " Fully within this verity to pore,
 " I shall contentment bring to thy desire.
" If this be violence, when the sufferer gives
 " Consent in nothing to the agent's act,
 " These souls can plead not this for their excuse ; 80
" For will, though willing not, is yet not dead,
 " But does as nature doeth in the flame,
 " Which spite of thousand efforts runs still.
" Wherefore the will which yieldeth less or more,
 " Assents to violence,—and such was thine, 85
 " Who in the holy place had power to turn.
" Had their free will remained in purpose firm
 " As that which held St. Lawrence on the grate,
 " Or Martin led to sacrifice his head,
" Then would their footsteps have retraced the way 90
 " Where force had dragged them, soon as freedom came ;
 " But human will is rarely firm like this ;
" And by these words if treasured in thy mind
 " As surely is, that reasoning is disproved
 " Which yet had brought much trouble to thy soul. 95
" But now another difficulty drives
 " Against thy vision, is thyself from which
 " Is no escape, till weary with the attempt.
" I have assumed thy mind contained 100
 " That a lost soul hath not the power to fly,
 " For it is ever near the Truth Divine ;

- " And from Picoche thou mayest have learnt
 " That still Constantia held the veil beloved,
 " So that she seems at home with me here.
- " Times many, oh, my brother, it hath chanced 100
 " A peril to avoid, that man hath done
 " Reluctantly what was nearest to do ;
 " Thus did Almondo, conquered by the prayer
 " Of his own father, his own mother day ;
 " Not to lose pity he was pitiless. 110
 " Unto this point I would thy thought direct,
 " In violence ever mixture is of will,
 " So that offences may not be increased.
 " Will absolute consents not to the sin,
 " But so far only as the fear craves ; 120
 " Should it refuse, it seems to greater sin.
 " And therefore when Picoche speaketh thus,
 " She the will absolute, I the other mean,
 " So that in truth not much between us lies."
- So loved the waters of the sacred rill 130
 Which from the fount of truth eternal welled
 And each made all my wishes met in peace.
 " Oh, thou beloved of the all-loving God,
 " Oh, saint," I said, " whose words are quickening showers,
 " And warmth by which I move and sense revive , 140
 " My soul's capacity is not so deep
 " That it suffice to render grain for grain ;
 " But He who sees and can, the garnish giveth.

- " Well do I see that nothing can content
" Our intellect, except the Truth Divine, 25
" For out of Him existeth nothing true.
" It rests in this, as wild heart in its den,
" Soon as attained, and it can be attained ;
" For otherwise in vain were such desire.
" Therefore as from the tree the water springs, 30
" Springs from the truth the doubt, thus nature works,
" And thus from height to height the top is gained.
" This urges me, this makes my courage bold,
" Lady, to ask thee, and with reverence due,
" Still of another truth to me declare. 35
" That would I know—Can mortal make amends
" For broken vows by other works of good,
" Which in your balance shall not weighing prove ?"
Beatrice now looked on me with eyes so full
Of the sweet sparks of love, and so divine, 40
That my sight failed me, and I turned away,
And with mine eyes cast down seemed almost lost.

CANTO V

Beetles having reached the Poet's death they pass upwards into the Sphere of Mercury: A multitude of spirits crowd around Dante, and one of them, in answer to his inquiry, gives him an overpowering light.

8

- " If in the fire of love to thee I glow
 " With greater brightness than on earth I seemed,
 " So that I steal the courage from thine eyes,
" Be not to wonder startled, for thus proceeds
 " From perfect vision, which, as it perceives, 10
 " Thus moves in measure to the good perceived.
" Clearly I see that even already shines
 " In thine intelligence the eternal light
 " Which thou waken, once woken, perpetual love ;
" And if aught other thing thy love seduces, 20
 " 'Tis but some trace of that same light divine
 " 'Tis understood, which love is shining through.
" Thy wish is this,—to know if other woe
 " For broken vows can prove of such avail
 " As shall the soul from self-reproach exempt ? " 30

Thus Beatrice commenced what now I write,
 And like to one who speaketh without pause,
 So she continued her divine discourse

- " The greatest gift God the Creator gives,
 " Of His great beauty, and the most conformed 10
 " To His own goodness, and most prized by Him,
 " Is the unfettered liberty of will,
 " With which his creatures of intelligence
 " All and alone have been and are endowed.
 " Hence then wilt see by reference thencefrom 15
 " How precious is the vow, if it be such,
 " That when thy will consenteth God contents ;
 " Because in compact between God and man
 " The mention is made of that nob gift
 " Of which I speak, and by its proper act. 20
 " What then shall be for compensation given ?
 " This offering used to work some other good,
 " Is but to do good works with stolen coin.
 " Now thou art clear upon the greater point ;
 " But since the Holy Church from vows elects, 25
 " Scorning at naught with the truth I tell,
 " Thou must at table still some time remain,
 " Because the right fire of thy food
 " For its utilisation needeth help.
 " Let what I now reveal be laid to heart, 30
 " And held in ward, for knowledge hath no power,
 " Without the memory, to make us wise.

- " Unto the essence of this sacrifice
 " Two things are requisite;—the one is called
 " The Matter of the vow ; the other, Form.
 " There is no quit-claim for the last of those,
 " If not observed, and in respect of this
 " Thou should'st me lately speak in terms precise ;
 " Thus by law absolute the Jews were held
 " To make their offering, though the offering might
 " Be changed in nature, as thou well must know.
 " The other, known as Matter of the vow,
 " May still be such that it would be no wrong
 " Though for some other matter it were changed.
 " But as his shoulders let mine shift the weight
 " By his own choice, unless the lock be turned
 " Or by the white or by the yellow key ;
 " And learn that every change is folly's act,
 " If the suited thing be not contained,
 " In that assumed as four are in the six.
 " Therefore whatever vow weigheth as much
 " By its own worth that every balance scales,
 " Can be atoned for by no other work.
 " Thus let not mortals take a vow in jest ;
 " Be true in faith, nor inconsistent,
 " As Jephthah was at his first offering.
 " Who better far had said, ' I have done ill,'
 " Than keeping plight do worse ; nor be as such
 " As he, the mighty leader of the Greeks,

- " Whom her fair face Iphigenia mourned,
 " Making both wise and foolish weep her loss
 " Who hear this find not of worship told.
 " Oh, Christians, take more heed unto your ways ;
 " Be not like fashions stirred by every wind ;
 " Think not that every stream will cleanse your souls. 35
 " To have the Testaments the old and new,
 " And the Great Pastor of the Church for guide ;
 " This is enough to make salvation yours.
 " If evil passions other things suggest,
 " Then be ye men, and not inanimate brutes, 40
 " So that the Jews among you shall not laugh
 " Do ye not live unto the land which leaves
 " The mother's milk, and with its shallow sport
 " In fruit grafted strives with itself." 45
 To me speaks Beatrice as now I write,
 And then she turned with eager longing round
 Where seemed the world most quick with life and light.
 Her stillness and her change of look imposed
 Silence upon my eager spirit's wish,
 For questions now were ready on my tongue. 50
 And like an arrow which the target strikes
 Before vibration ceases in the steel,
 So we shot upwards to the second realm.
 Here with such gladness did my lady glow,
 Passing into the light of the new banner, 55
 That with a double splendour shone the star.

And if it thus were changed and seemed to fade,
Then how much more an answer such as I,
Both in my soul and body full of change !
As in a pond of water still and pure,
The fishes dart, whose mouths from without
That which is there, both semblance of their food,
So did I see a thousand glorious souls
Towards us draw, and from them all I heard,
" Let, some our others' blessings to exchange ! "
And soon as each had near to us approached,
Full seemed the space with the sweet delight
Which forth from it in brightest radiance shined.
Ah, reader ! what my pen commences here
Were it to go no further, think how great
Would be those anxious craving more to know ;
Then judge thou by thyself of my desire
To hear those souls of their condition tell
So soon as to mine eyes made manifest.
" Oh, man beloved, to whom the grace is given
" To see the saints triumphant on their thrones,
" Behold thine earthly weakness both its cause,
" With that glad light through heaven's expanse diffused
" We are inflamed ; if thou it be thy wish,
" Clear up thy doubts, and take thy pleasure folk "
Thus spake to me one of those spirits blest ;
And after it, thus Bontine—" Speak, speak ;
" Fear not, but speak : before is them no end."

" Clearly I see how thou hast made a nest

" In thine own light, which streameth from thine eyes, 120

" For thou it flashest as if lit by another;

" But who thou art I know not, nor why placed,

" Thus honoured and ! in that one orb of heaven

" Most veiled from mortals by the solar rays."

This I addressed directly to the light

125

Which first did speak to me, and it became

In glory brighter than it yet had been,

And like the sun who is excess of light

Himself ascends, when by his heat dissolved

The vapours rise, which fumed his tempering red, 130

So with more joy exulting was conceded

In its own brightness that most blessed form,

And wholly thus eclipsed, its career came

As in the song which follows shall be sung

06/01/2011 11:01

The Spirit of the Harper-Jordan address *Exile*. The number of previous history and books of the Kansas People. Murray is included as the state of those early when stated in the last two (previous) days.

- " After great Omastatus his eagle flew,
 " Meeting the course of heaven, it followed once
 " Behind the hero who Lavinia won.
 " Two hundred years and more the bird divine
 " In the far east of Europe had its home,
 " Near to the mountain which had sent it forth ;
 " And under shadow of its sacred wings
 " There ruled the world, and thus from hand to hand
 " By law of change imperial came to rest.
 " Caesar I was, Justinian I am,
 " Who, by the Spirit moved, whom now I know,
 " Laws unless and superfluous swept away ;
 " And see the mighty work my soul expressed,
 " One nature in the Saviour Christ I knew,
 " No more, and with such faith I was content :

- " But blessed Agapetus, pastor chief
 " Of Holy Church, to the faith true and pure
 " My soul directed by his saintly words.
 " And I believed, and the great truth he preached
 " Made me see clearly, as thou wilt well
 " In every opposite the false and true
 " So soon as in the Church's faith I trod,
 " God, by His grace, the inspiration gave
 " For the great work, and thus I planged therein.
 " My Belandier led mine armed host,
 " Which by high heaven was in such favour held,
 " The sign was clear my duty lay in rest.
 " To thy first question thus my answer comes
 " True it is close, but 'tis in nature such
 " I am constrained somewhat to add thereto,
 " That thou mayest judge how small the amount of right
 " Against the holy emperour either moves
 " Friends who uphold, or enemies who oppose.
 " Behold how great the valour which hath made
 " Reverse its din, and its beginning took
 " When Pulvis died to give his empire birth.
 " They knowest well that Albi was the home
 " Three hundred years and more, until the time
 " When three opposed to three the mastery fought,
 " Its deeds thou knowest from the Salian rage
 " Down to Lucretia's war—even royal rage—
 " Conquering the tribes which held surrounding sway.

- " Then knewest its triumph when the demont man
 " Of Rome made Brenna, Pyrrhus won its power,
 " And entered other princes, other leagues ; 40
 " By which Torquatus, Quintus who was named
 " From hair untriched, the Decii, Fabii,
 " That fame acquired which gladly I cherish.
 " It struck to earth the proud Arician host,
 " Which in the train of Hannibal's veterans 45
 " The rugged Alps, from which the Po descends.
 " Beneath it triumphed in their flesh of youth
 " Pompey and Scipio ; and the bell which swells
 " Above thy birthplace till its force awails.
 " Then near the time when the whole host of heaven 50
 " Wielded upon earth its own celestial power,
 " Came, by Rome's command, the eagle host ;
 " And what it did from Var unto the Rhine
 " Those rivers know, the Saane, Isere, and Rhone,
 " And every vale which helps to swell the Rhone. 55
 " What it then did when from Rhenus forth
 " It passed the Jubbons, was slight as swift
 " It may not followed be by pen or tongue.
 " It rolled its legions to the land of Spain ;
 " Then to Dyrrachium ; then Pharsalia struck, 60
 " So that the tepid Nile perceived the blow.
 " Alexandre and the Gauls whence it sprung
 " Once more it saw, and where great Hector slept ;
 " Next upon Ptolemy it fiercely flew ,

- " Then upon Juba like the lightning flashed, 25
 " And after that swept back towards your west,
 " Where rolled the echoes of great Pompey's tramp.
 " The deeds it did with him who bore it next,
 " Brutus and Cassius bark and howl in hell,
 " And Modest mourns and Perugin grieves. 30
 " Had Cleopatra weeps its conquering flight,
 " And from its terror fleeing, in the bay
 " Tack to her bosom swift and gloomy death.
 " Augustus bore it to the Red Sea shore ;
 " With him it brought the world such peace profound, 35
 " That upon Jaxas closed the double point.
 " But what I say of the imperial bird,
 " What it had done, what it was yet to do
 " Throughout the period of its temporal reign,
 " Appear but trifling and inglorious all, 40
 " If when it lay in the third Cesar's grasp
 " We look with eye clear and undimmed by sin ;
 " For God's great justice which my word inspires
 " Gave it, while held by him of whom I speak,
 " The glory to take vengeance for His wrath. 45
 " Now here with double wonder let to me :
 " Then it took wing with Titus to avenge
 " The divine vengeance for the sinner's crime.
 " And when the Lord of hate had fed its wrath
 " On Holy Church, beneath its conquering wings 50
 " The mighty Charles made speed to bring it sad

- " Now mayest thou judgment form of what he doth
 " When loudly I accused, and what their crimes,
 " Who are the very cause of all your woes.
- " The golden Sins have the eagle sent,
 " There it is made a party van to serve ;
 " 'Tis hard to say which hath the greater blame.
- " Let then the Chabellines their scale pursue
 " Under another banner ; thus our Sins
 " With bated wing where justice is forgot ;
- " And the new Charles, let him not pluck it down
 " By his own Guelphs, but let him fear the slave
 " Which from a wretched pony have torn the spoils.
- " Many a time ere this the seas have wept
 " Their father's crime, and it is past belief
 " That for the likes God His eagle change.
- " This little planet is made beautiful
 " By righteous spirits, who have worked in life
 " That fame and honour they might leave behind ;
- " And when our wishes find on these steep pass
 " The bounds of right, then meet the flames of love
 " Ascend less quickly and less true to heaven.
- " But in the apportionment of our rewards
 " To our deserts, part of our joy is this,
 " We never find them more near less than just.
- " Thus divine justice tempers us in us
 " Our souls' affections, that we lack the power
 " To turn ourselves to any wickedness.

- " As various voices make sweet harmony,
" So diverse glories in our earthly life 125
" Produce sweet concord in these haly spheres,
" And in this planet, this celestial pearl,
" Shines the light of Romeo, who received
" For work both good and great a gooden rite.
" But the Provencals who the injustice did 130
" Had little heart. Ah, wretched path is his
" Who finds his evil in another's good !
" Four daughters, each of them a Royal Queen,
" Had Raymond Benger, and this the work
" Of Romeo, strange in country, poor in blood ; 135
" Yet was his master moved by various words
" To claim a full account from this just man,
" Who had assigned him twelve for every ten,
" And so he went away worn out and poor ;
" And had the world but known the noble heart 140
" Which begged for very life a crust of bread,
" The praise it gave him would be double praise."

CANTO VII.

Here describe what in Lucina's vision respecting the redemption of man, and the nature and mode of this redemption. Lucina explains the singing mystery, and afterwards the Fate of that singing justice.

Macbeth's scepter thus Suborneth

Superfluities claritate tuâ

Falsos ignes hæcæon machabell !

Then, turning to its own celestial whirl,

That elect sport, on which twofold light

8

Redoubbling fell, appeared to me to sing ;

And it and all moved in their starry dance,

And then like very swiftly flying sparks

Went in an instant in the distance lost.

Doubt still bent me. Speak to her, I said ;

10

(Unto myself I said) speak, speak to her

Who with such drops of sweetest calm the thirst

But that great reverence which so masters me

Even at the very utterance of her name,

Inclined my head as one who courteth sleep.

11

- Short time did Beatrice such doubt permit,
 For thus she spoke, all radiant with a smile,
 Such as to make man happy even in fire—
 " By my soaring judgment I perceive
 " Thy thought is this, ' The vengeance being just, 10
 " How can it justly punishment deserve ?'
 " But men thy mental problem I shall solve ;
 " Then listen thou, for unto thee my words
 " Shall of a mighty doctrine make the gift.
 " For not permitting to his will a check 20
 " For his own good, that man who was not born
 " Himself condemning all his race condemned ;
 " Wherefore destined to fatal sickness lay
 " From deadly error, and for aye long,
 " Till God's most Blessed Word was pleased to come, 30
 " Whose human nature, alienate by sin
 " From its Creator, in Himself He took
 " By the sole act of His eternal love,
 " Now to my reasoning give thy closest thought ;
 " This human nature to its Maker joined 40
 " Was at the first created good and pure,
 " But by its own sole fault was banished forth
 " From Paradise, because it turned aside
 " From Him, the way, the very truth, the life.
 " Thus, then, the punishment the Cross required, 50
 " If measured by the nature Christ assumed,
 " More justly than all other find its sting ;

- " Whilst sin none was ever so unjust,
 " Having regard unto the Sufferer's self,
 " With whom this human nature was conjoined. 21
 " From one act, therefore, sprung effects diverse ;
 " For God and Jewry in one death reconciled,
 " Which made the earth to quake and opened heaven.
 " No longer then let language seem obscure,
 " When it is said that vengeance, although just, 22
 " Called down the vengeance of a righteous court.
 " But now I see how straightened is thy mind,
 " Passing from thought to thought within a net,
 " From which with keen desire thou seek'st escape.
 " Then thinkest—' What I hear I comprehend, 23
 " ' But this is hidden, Why should God have willed
 " ' By means like this that man should be redeemed ?'
 " Brother, this deep decree sepulchred lies
 " Unto the eyes of all in whom the soul
 " Hath not been ripened in the flame of love. 24
 " But because this is the great point to which
 " Many their eyes direct, through few discern,
 " I will now tell the glory of the means.
 " The Divine Goodness, who regards the truth 25
 " Of every, being love Himself, so shines,
 " That all emotion owns the blessed display.
 " That which directly emanates from Him
 " Liveth for ever, for there is no loss
 " Of His impression where His soul is set.

- " Man in this false state hath not wherewith
 " To make statement, for he cannot reach
 " In his obedient humbleness so low
 " As he in disobedience thought to rise, 100
 " And this explaineth why he is debarred
 " From power to make statement for himself
 " Therefore the need that God by His own way
 " Should man restore unto his perfect life
 " By mercy, or by this and justice joined. 110
 " But as the work gives ever most delight
 " Unto the workman when it sheweth most
 " The goodness of the heart from which it springs,
 " God's goodness, which inspiriteth all His works,
 " Was pleased in His procedure to make use 120
 " Of both these ways to raise up fallen man ;
 " From the first day of time to the last night
 " Was never work so mighty and sublime
 " By either means performed, nor ever shall
 " For richer was God's love in that He took 130
 " Man's nature, that redemption might be man's,
 " Than if alone His mercy had forgiven,
 " And inefficient were all other ways
 " Justice to merit, had not the Son of God
 " In great humility been born of flesh. 140
 " Therefore thy every wish to satisfy,
 " I now return to make one point more clear,
 " That as I see, so thou mayest see them all

- " Then sayest, 'I see the air, I see the fire,
 " " Water, and land, and all combined of these, 120
 " " Come to corruption, their existence brief',
 " ' And yet these things were all created things,
 " " Whence, if the words I spoke have been the truth,
 " " They ought from all corruption to be free.'
 " The angels, brother, and the region pure 125
 " In which thou art, truly created were
 " In all perfection as they now exist ;
 " But then the elements which thou hast named,
 " And every combination formed by them,
 " Give their existence to created power 130
 " The matter elementary was from God,
 " From God the generative power derived
 " Which the stars have that circling move around.
 " The ray and movement of those holy lights,
 " By their potential energy, thence 135
 " The soul of every beast and every plant.
 " But Infinite Goodness breathes in us the soul
 " Directly from Himself, and to Himself
 " Constrains its love, henceforth its whole desire.
 " And thus by reasoning thou must also prove 140
 " Man's resurrection, if thou wilt reflect
 " How mortal flesh was then created when
 " In the beginning the first pair were made."

CANTO VIII.

Descends secretly into the sphere of Venus. There he encounters the spirits of those who in earth were consumed by their unceasing passions. He meets with the shade of Gato Skatchin, the slave of passion of his youth and affliction.

The world was worst in pagan perfidious times
To deem that sensual love was spread abroad
By Venus in the third Epicycle turning ;
Therefore did men not only honour her
With sacrifices and with votive prayers
In the old time, in the old error sunk ;
But not less honoured Cupid and Eros ;
The mother this, and that the Cyprian's son,
And he, they said, nestled in Dido's breast.
And so from her who thus beginning stirs
The pagans took the names they gave that star
Which now in front, now following, weaves the web.
Of my ascent to it I nothing felt ;
But that I was within it proof enough
My lady gave, for levelled she became.

And as in flame the brighter spark is seen,
 And as in music voice from voice is known,
 When one at rest, the others rise and fall,
 I in the light saw other luminous lamps
 Moving around with sufficience more or less, 10
 Methinks proportioned to their vision's bliss.
 Winds we've descended from the highlands
 Of visible or not, however swift,
 Which had not seemed in movement checked and slow,
 Compared with those celestial lights now seen 20
 Approaching towards us, coming from the whirl
 Blowed at the first by the high scurphins ;
 And from the lips of those who were in front
 So sweet *Roanach* sounded, ever since
 Methinks I longed to hear it once again. 30
 Then one came nearer to us, and it said,
 Speaking alone—" Most ready are we all
 " To do thy will that we may give thee joy.
 " With the celestial persons here we roll,
 " One is our sphere, our movement, our desire ; 40
 " Of those on earth already thou hast told,
 " For who do dwell heaven by your realm's rule ;
 " And we so longingly would make thee glad,
 " A little while to rest were sweet to us."
 After many eyes with questioning glances were turned 50
 With reverence to my lady, and from hers
 Had gained contentment and assurance full,

I turned them towards the light from which had come

To large a promise, and with voice attuned

To tender wishes, "Who art thou?" I said. 40

Ah, great and glorious did its lustre grow,

As a new rapture widened at my words,

And to its gladness brought increase of joy!

Thus glorified it spake—"The world was mine

"But for a little space; had this been more, 45

"Much still yet to be had never been.

"I am surrounded in my own blossoms,

"Which radiates around me; I am hid

"As is the insect in its silken robe.

"Then lov'dst me well, and for it had good cause; 50

"But had I longer lived, I would have shown

"Not the leaves only but the fruits of love.

"That region on the left confined and waked

"By the mixed water of the Rhone and Saône,

"Looked for me as he laid, at the due time; 55

"And that Amazonian promontory, crown'd

"By Bari, Gaeta, and Capoue's towers,

"From Treviso and the Venetian ocean mouths.

"The crown already on my forehead glanced

"Of that fair country which the Danube leaves, 60

"After it passes from its German banks;

"And beautiful Trinacria, steeped in gloom

"(Not from Typhoeus dead, but sulphurous dirt)

"Between Pachynus and Pelorus' cape,

- " That God who rules the realm thou dost adore,
 " And all contenteth, with the power endow
 " Of His own providence these mighty spheres ;
 " And not alone hath the All-perfect mind
 " For every creature due provision made,
 " But also what stability demands ;
 " For whatsoever speaketh from the bow
 " Sendsen unerringly the end foreseen,
 " As to the mark the arrow wings its flight.
 " If this were not, that heaven thou passest through
 " Would in its workings such effects produce
 " As would be ruin and not building up ;
 " And this can not be, if the angels' minds
 " Which move these stars be imperfection here,
 " And He to make them perfect have not failed.
 " Will'st thou this truth shall still be clearer made ?"
 " No," said I ; " for impossible it seems
 " That Nature in her needful work can fail."
 He added then—" Say now, would it be worse
 " If man were not a citizen on earth ?"
 I answered—" Yes ; nor need I seek the cause :
 " And can he truly be, if in man's lives
 " They do not seek his different office here ?
 " No, if in this your master writes the truth."
 So by deduction to this point he came,
 And then concluded—" It must follow, then,
 " Man's inclinations vary in their roots ;

- " Therefore a *Solon* one, a *Jansen* one,
 " One a *Melchisedec* at home, and one 105
 " Who lost his son by too presumptuous flight.
 " The virtue of the circling heavens, and soil
 " To stamp the mortal wax, does well its work,
 " But makes no difference between house and house
 " Hence it arrives that *Eena* is as far 110
 " Apart from *Joach* ; and from stock so vile
 " Spring *Romulus*, whom *Fama* makes son of *Mars*.
 " Nature in genius would ever move
 " In the same path progenitors have trod,
 " Were it not checked by Providence divine. 115
 " What once was hidden now thou wilt clear,
 " But since thy knowledge makes me to rejoice,
 " I throw a scoldery over all.
 " If nature findeth fortune with herself
 " In chance, Ours like any other need 120
 " In chance unscitable, it always fails.
 " And if the world below would ponder well
 " On the foundation nature sets to each,
 " And build on that, a nobler race were men.
 " But is a life religious him ye turn, 125
 " Him who was born to wear the gilded sword,
 " And make him king who is more fit to preach,
 " So that your footsteps wander from the road."

CANTO IX.

Heads reverend the shades of *Charles, Duke of Tuscany in Germany; and of*
Belshazzar of Marcella. The glorious light of Richard of Arden is also made
manifest to him. The First comes the Queen with other works against the Pope
and Cardinals.

After thy Charles, oh, beautiful Clements !

Had cleared my doubts, he told to me the fables

Which should in time bring sorrow to his word ;

But said—" Keep silence, let the years roll on ;"

So that I may not speak, save only this,

That we well earned shall follow on your wrongs.

And now the spirit of that holy light

Turned to the source whence all its fulness came,

That Good sufficient in Himself for all.

Ah, blinded souls, ah, ambitious and vain,

Who close your hearts to this majestic good,

Turning your thoughts to very vanity !

Lo ! now another of those lustre lights

Tremble are looked, and its sweet wish to please

Was in its outward brilliancy revealed.

The eyes of Beatrice, which still were fixed

On me as formerly, with dear aspect

Gave willing liberty to my desire.

" Ah ! be thou pleased to satisfy my wish,

" Thine spirit bleed," I said, " and give me proof

" That all my thoughts I can reflect in thee."

On which the spirit, yet to me unknown,

From the great depths whence rose its former song,

Compiled with air of very courteous joy—

" In Italy's fond land, and in that part

" Which lies between Ravenna and the springs

" Whence the Poë and the Secchia flow,

" Rises a hill, but to no mighty height,

" From which descended once a hard task,

" Dringing to all the region dire damage.

" From the same stock we came, both I and L.

" Common was my name, and here I shone,

" Bound by the influence of this planet's light.

" But I with gladness to myself excuse

" The cause which drove me here, and little heed

" That to your ignorant world it seemed strange.

" Of this most latent, the most precious gem

" Of our own human, and which is sacred not,

" Great fame resulted, and ere it shall have passed,

" This hundredth year shall its fifth cycle roll ;

" See then how man should labour to excel,

" Since such a second life may crown the first !

- " But 'tis not so the present middle think,
 " Who 'twixt the Adige and Tagliamento dwell,
 " Nor hath affliction their repentance wrought. 40
- " But soon shall Feltra change to crimson dye
 " The marshy waters which Vicenza looks,
 " Because her sons are headstrong against right.
- " And where Cagnano and the hills join,
 " He lords it proudly, and with hand aloft, 45
 " For whom the net is waiting even now.
- " Feltra hath yet to weep the partly
 " Of its foul pastor, and so shameless he,
 " For one so vile never panned Deborah's tower.
- " No wine-cup would be large enough to hold 50
 " The flowing measure of Formica's blood,
 " And weary he who sates by sates should weigh
- " What that most liberal priest shall give in proof
 " Of party spirit; and with gifts accord 55
 " With all the living customs of the land.
- " Alas we sinners, and you call them thieves,
 " Whence upon us a fief of judgment sits,
 " So that our prophecies are words of truth."
- Here she was silent, and the sentence had
 Of turning to some other thought, aware 60
 Plunged in the whirl as she had been before.
- The other gladsome spirit known ere now
 Was as a thing of very beauty's self,
 A lake ruby which the sun has struck.

- Gladness in heaven maketh a brighter light 19
 As joy makes smiles on earth ; but hell beneath
 By outer shadow marks its inner woe
 " God with all, thy vision lives in His,"
 I said, " oh, blessed soul ! so that no wish
 " Which comes from Him can be to thee obscure. 20
 " Therefore thy voice, which brings delight to heaven
 " With the same song of the bright seraphim,
 " Who with six wings make to themselves a hood,
 " Why dost it not yield praise to my desire ?
 " I would have waited not for thy request, 21
 " Could I in thy thought pierce, as thou to mine."—
 " The mightiest valley in which rolls the sea,
 " Except that corner which the earth surrounds,"
 Thus unto utterance at length it waked,
 " Between opposing shores, against the sun 22
 " Stretcheth as far, the sea, which at the first
 " Horizon is, meridian becomes.
 " I was a dweller on that valley's shore
 " Twixt Elys and the Mæns, short in course,
 " Dividing Greece from Tuscan land. 23
 " In a like parallel of East and West
 " Lay Brega and the land from which I sprang,
 " Whose Port once rocked with its own children's blood.
 " That people call me Poise unto whom
 " My name was known, and the celestial sphere 24
 " Which once impressed me is by me impressed ;

- " Far Dido burnt not with so hot a flame,
 " Grieving Siharus and Carus both,
 " As I, so long as fitting to my pain ;
- " Her Phyllis, Thracian's Queen, who was betrayed 100
 " By Demophoon, nor great Heracles
 " When Iphig held him captive in her heart.
- " Yet we repent not here, but we rejoice,
 " Not in the sin—that teaches us no more—
 " But in that Power who sees and all ordains. 105
- " Here we the art contemplate which adorns
 " Each great object, and the wise end for which
 " The heavenly spheres control the earth below.
- " But that they rest in satisfaction full,
 " Thy heart's disease, which in this sphere are born, 110
 " It needseth I should somewhat further speak.
- " Thou wouldest know who dwelleth in the light
 " Which glistering near us sparkles as the ray
 " When the sun shines on the liquid wave.
- " Learn then that there within resteth in peace 115
 " Rahab, and of our clime she formeth one,
 " And, in the highest, makes her mansion here.
- " Unto this sphere which terminates the cure
 " Which the earth's shadow makes, first of all souls
 " She was assumed when Christ triumphant rose. 120
- " Fitting it was some orb selected hold
 " This trophy of that mighty victory won
 " By the outstretching of two wounded hands,

- " For she brought help to the first glorious move
 " Of Joshua towards the Holy Land, 121
 " To which the Pope gives the best society thought.
- " Thy city, which no ailment is of him
 " Who to his master first the shoulder turned,
 " And from whose every spring such bitter war,
 " Come and make current that accursed flow, 122
 " Which has led sheep and lamb alike astray,
 " For of the shepherd it has made a wolf
- " Thus are the Gospels, all the Fathers, left
 " Deserted, and the Canon low alone
 " So studied, page and margin give the proof. 123
- " The Pope and Cardinals make their study this,
 " Their thoughts go never forth to Nazareth,
 " Where the Archangel Gabriel spread his wings.
- " But soon the Vatican and other spots
 " Of Rome most holy, which had been the seats 124
 " Of the Church Militant in Peter's train,
 " Shall from the fold solitary be free."

CANTO X.

Description of the order by which God created the universe. The Poet ascends into the Fourth Heaven, to that of the fixed stars. In this last he sees the souls of those who were innocent in childhood. Many glorious spirits are pointed out to him by St. Thomas Aquinas.

Beholding in His Son and with the love
Which in eternity proceeds from both,
The one the ineffable Almighty,
Makes all that mind revolves or senses perceives
In such fair order, that whoso'er observes
Must have some taste of Him so wise and good.
Lift then, oh reader ! to the whole sublime
Thy gaze with me direct towards that part
Where the two movements seem to interfere,
And there with love and awe survey the work
Of the great Workman, by Himself so loved
His eye is ever in and o'er it all.
And lo ! here now from the equator curves
The oblique circle which the planets bear,
To shed their influence on a moving world ;

And if their pathway were not so inclined,
 Much heavenly influence would be shed in vain,
 And nature's fires be almost dead on earth ;
 And if the obliquity were more or less
 From the right line, mighty were then the loss
 Of order annexed to earth and heaven. 10
 Now, oh, my reader, be thy quiet seat
 Think closely on the fancies I have given,
 If thou wouldst gladness know ere come fatigue ;
 Thy table I have spread, thyself now feed, 20
 For all my thoughts and cares are here reclaimed
 By that deep master of whom I can write.
 The mightiest of great Nature's ministers,
 Which with celestial virtue stamps the world,
 And measures with its light the passing hours, 30
 Joined with that part of heaven, of which we speak
 Somewhat before, along the sphere rolled
 In which it showeth each day by day.
 And I was with it, but my upward flight
 Was not perceived, more than a man perceives 40
 The coming of a thought before it comes
 For Beatrice is with me, and my guide
 From good to better with each rapid set,
 That it can make no measurement in time.
 How hasty in their glory needs must be 50
 Those in the sun, where I had entrance found,
 Not from their colour but their glittering light !

Though I may call on genius, custom, art,
 I cannot tell what may not be contrived,
 But faith and hope to see may still be ours,
 And if our weak imaginations quail
 Before such lofty vision, marvel not,
 For higher than the sun eye never reached.
 Such was the orb in order fourth from Him,
 The all-sufficing Father, showing how
 He begets the Spirit and begets the Son.
 And Beatrice said—"Give thanks, give thanks to Him,
 " Son of the angels, who hath lighted thee
 " By His pure grace to this material sun."
 No marvel ever felt devotion's call
 So strong, none ever gave himself to God
 With such a ready fulness of his heart,
 As I, upon the utterance of those words,
 And then on Him so seated all my love,
 That Beatrice by old man was outstepped.
 Yet it displeased her not, for she so smiled,
 That in the splendour of her smiling eyes
 My single purpose turned to many things.
 Spirits more bright and dancing I behold
 Of us make centre, of themselves a ring,
 Sweeter in voice than harp to the ear,
 Latona's daughter thus controlled some
 When requies make at times so dark the air,
 It holds the colours which the hale turn.

- In that far court of heaven from whence I come, 79
 Unnumbered jews rich and rare are found,
 Such as may never pass beyond that realm ;
 And those high spirits' song was one of those ;
 He who hath not the wings for such a flight
 Must look as from the clouds for news from heaven. 80
- Then, after singing thus, those glowing ones
 Three times around us in a circle wheeled,
 Like stars revolving near the fixed pole ;
 They seemed like girls not coming from the dance,
 But who in silence pass with hatching ear, 81
 Till the new notes are gathered by the score ;
 And forth from one of them this utterance came—
 " Because the top of grace, whence wakes the fire
 " Of real love, and which by loving grows,
 " In thee redoubled with such glory shines, 82
 " That it conducts thee upwards by a stair
 " Which none descends who does not mount again ;
 " Whoso'er should wince refuse from his own flask
 " To quench thy thirst, would no more freedom have
 " Than a vineyard barred from flowing to the sea, 83
 " Thou wouldst know what plants supply the flowers
 " Which form the wreath that winds in ornament
 " Round her who makes thee strong to rise to know,
 " I was a lamb of that most holy flock
 " Which matted Demos by pathways led, 84
 " Where grace matures if virtues are cherished,

- " He who is nearest me and on the right,
 " My brother was and master—Albert he,
 " And of Cologne, and of Aquarian L.
- " If thou wouldst certain know of all the rest, 100
 " Follow my speech with an discernant look,
 " Travelling the breadth of this bloodstained track.
- " That other splendour streams from Giulian's joy,
 " Who sought to reconcile the double law,
 " And brought contentment to the courts of heaven. 105
- " He near me who our company adorn,
 " That Peter was, who to the Holy Church,
 " Like the poor widow, gave what he possessed.
- " That light, the fifth and furthest of us all,
 " Flows from such love, that the whole rather world. 110
 " Cares with great longing to be told of him.
- " Within it dwells that mind sublime, as full
 " Of every knowledge, that if truth be truth,
 " A second such on earth shall never die.
- " Nearer to us behold that taper's light 115
 " Which in the flesh possessed, such views profound
 " Of the angelic ministry and vision
- " And in that lesser light he radiates joy,
 " The great defender of the Christian faith,
 " Whose writings quelled St. Augustine's pen. 120
- " Now if thou make these eyes of thought to gaze
 " From light to light in order of my praise,
 " The eighth becomes the thirteenth of thy dance.

- " Here is fruition of the Good Supreme
 " Bards that meet holy soul who maketh known 125
 " The world's demands to him who will to hear
 " The body, once its veil, sepulchred lies
 " In Cold-Orn, and from martyrs' pains
 " And from earth's strife to this peace he came
 " More distant, in ' radiates the fervent light 130
 " Of Isidore, Remond, and of Rode,
 " In speculation something more than men.
 " This one from whom these eyes towards me turn
 " Lamp of a spirit is, whose glorious thought
 " Made him think death too lagged in its pace. 135
 " This is of Sigier, the eternal soul
 " Who, when he lectured in the stone-spread street,
 " Ignorance truths by dialectic proved,"
 So as a clock which calleth unto prayer,
 That time in which the spirit of God awakes 140
 To sing the martyr love she bears her Lord,
 Higher and higher makes the clapper strike,
 Sounding—tin, tin—and with such dulcet note,
 That every painful spirit swells with love ;
 Thus did I see this glorious wheel move round, 145
 And voices gave answering harmony to voices
 In love and sweetness, such as no one knows
 Save there alone where joy eternal reigns.

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10. Thomas Aquinas provides doublets in the proof of Divine grounds in religious texts. He assumes the Augustinian idea of the Primacy of Faith.

Oh, rare mansion of the man of man,
How faulty is the reasoning and how weak
Which makes thy wings droop grovelling o'er the earth !
Some were engrossed with love, with softness some,
Some made the holy priesthood their pretence,
And some by force and some by surliness ruled,
Some lived by frauds, and some by devil charge,
Some in the pleasures of the flesh were sunk
And earthy-wary, some were drowned in sloth ;
Whilst I unloosed from all these earthly things,
Was wafted up with Beatrice into Heaven.
By each a rich and glorious welcome met,
After each Span to the point had turned
Which in the circle was its former place,
It stood as usual in its candlestick.

Then to! I heard once more within that light

Which awakes again, words as of one who wealed,

And when they came, more vivid grew the dead.

"As with the ray divine I am inflamed,

"So in beholding that starred lamp

11

"I learn to know thy thoughts and whence they spring

"Then doubtless and it is thy wish to know

"By language more precise in terms and clear

"Unto those understanding what I meant,

"When some time back I said, *Where grace matures;*

12

"And, *Speed such on earth shall never rise;*

"And here 'tis needed we distinguish well.

"That Providence who rules the universe

"By His decree started, and of which

"All eyes craved but to pierce the depths,

13

"That to her well-beloved she might come

"The spouse of Him, who with a mighty cry

"Signed her betrothal with His sacred blood,

"Safely and also for increase of faith,

"Two captains for her services assigned,

14

"Who should be guides to her on either side.

"The one was all strength in his love,

"The other by his wisdom was on earth

"A very glory of aboriginal light.

"Of one of them I speak, because to both

15

"Alike the praise applies, it befits not which,

"For in their works one and they had in view

- " Between Tapiro and the stream which rolls
 " Down from the hill which least Ukkia chose,
 " A fertile slope on the high mountain hangs ;
 " Of this Poroja built the best and odd
 " On the side Poria built, whilst behind
 " Noreva and Qualla wrap the galling pole
 " On that steep bank, and where its steepness falls
 " Less than elsewhere, was born to earth a son
 " As from the Ganges this in summer springs.
 " But let not him who speaketh of the place
 " Asia call it, little that would tell,
 " But call it East, if he would rightly speak.
 " He was not yet far distant from his rise,
 " Ere he began to make the world perceive,
 " That in his virtue mighty comfort lay.
 " For he yet youthful shed his Father's wrath
 " For her dear sake for whom, even as for death,
 " The joys of pleasure he by none unlocked ;
 " And in the presence of the sacred court,
 " *Et coram patre*, took her for his spouse ;
 " And day by day thereafter lived her more.
 " She of her first mate widowed hardly was,
 " Despaired one thousand and one hundred years,
 " No one reviving her until he came ;
 " Naught it availed that she was barren found
 " With her Anayisa, at the call of him
 " Who with his terror filled the world entire :

- " Naught it couldst that she was true and bold, 75
 " So that when Mary turned as she doth,
 " With Christ she mounted on the bitter cross
 " But hark I overtake my meaning cloud,
 " Francis and Poverty shall henceforth be
 " The names those lovers bear in my discourse. 80
 " Their sacred sweet, their aspect glad and calm,
 " Their love which maketh wonder, their sweet looks
 " Became the moving springs of holy thought;
 " So that the venerable Bernard first
 " Made here his feet to win so great a grace, 85
 " He ran the course which running still seemed slow.
 " Oh, worth unknown, oh true, oh real good!
 " Epiphany and Epiphany then their feet
 " Bared in the hedgegrove's track, so sweet the bride.
 " Then from his house that father, master, moved 90
 " Forth with his wife, and with that family
 " Whose hives the humble bee now directed sound,
 " No sword shame of heart chased his heart
 " At being Peter Bernardine's son,
 " Nor for an aspect strangely scorned of men. 95
 " But really his rigid purpose he
 " Declared to Innocent, and had from him
 " The first approval of his holy rule.
 " After the poor and humble more and more
 " Trud in his footsteps, and whose wondrous life 100
 " Would be more worthy of an angel's song.

- " A second concert of approval crowned
 " Through Pope Honorius, by the spirit stimed,
 " The holy errand of their leader's end.
 " And after this, urged by the martyr's thirst,
 " In the deep presence of the Soldier's pride
 " Christ did he preach, and those who followed Him.
 " And having found the people yet asleep
 " For true conversion, not to work in vain
 " He turned again to speak Italian first.
 " On that rough mount which 'twixt the Tiber lies
 " And Arac's wave, Christ's final end of strife
 " He took, and here two years after his limbs
 " When He whose free grace made him so stout
 " Was pleased to waft him to his high reward,
 " Which he had earned by his humility,
 " He to his brethren, as his lawful heirs,
 " Commended his dear lady, with command
 " That they should love her with a heart of truth ;
 " And from her bosom that thumderous soul
 " Willed its farewell, returning to its home,
 " And for its lady willed no other kin
 " Consider, then, how great must be the man
 " Who was deemed worthy, and companion fit
 " In the right centre to guide St. Peter's bark ,
 " And in our patriarch one so great is found,
 " Wherefore whenever follows his behest
 " Must have a freight of very precious ware.

- " But now the winds now his flocks have mated
 " So full of glutting, it cannot feed 120
 " That once pastures various they must spread
 " And in proportion as his flocks recede,
 " And as they wander farther from himself;
 " They to the fold with constant milk return.
 " True there be some who still the danger dread, 125
 " And to the shepherd cling, but these so few
 " That little store of cloth will clothe them all.
 " Now if the words I speak be not obscure,
 " If thou in hearing hast attentive been,
 " If thou read'st to mind what I have said, 130
 " In part at least thy wish must have content,
 " For thou wilt see to what my words apply,
 " And understand the lessons in these words,
 " *That good nature where wisdom are blessed.*"

CANTO XII

In Descriptions, in this Canto, resembles the glorious life of St. Basilian. Afterwards he joins out to death and comes to him the spirit of many other descriptions.

No corner had the closing curtains passed
Beyond the utterance of this blessed flame,
When as a well the earthly band revolved,
And the full circle was not yet complete
Before another circle closed it in
And with it moved, one motion and one song;
Song, which as much as those their dulcet pipes
Surpassed our singers' and our poets' art,
As the first splendour the reflected ray
As bend athwart and in the tender clouds
Two arches parallel and like in hue,
When down to her husband given command,
The one without springing from that within
(Even as the language of that crest sprang
By love consumed, as vapour by the sun),

And which unto the nations passage give,
 By the great compact God with Noah made,
 That never more should water drown the world ;
 Thus of those towers revolving turned.

Whoe'd the two galleons round us sliding there, 15
 Inset and outset, one in act and song

After the dance and other drestal show,
 So stigh in song, so listrous in its blare,
 Light smelling light in sweetness and in joy,
 All at one point and with one imperious period, 20
 Just as the eyes which at the meeting will
 Open and shut by one concurrent act.

From forth the heart of one of these new lights
 Issued a voice, and turning whence it came,
 I named the needle pointing to the north ; 25

And thus it spake—" The love which makes us glow,
 " Stirs me to speak of him the other Chief,
 " Through whom men's own hath had such honoured work.

" The right where one is mentioned both should be ;
 " As they together fought the Church's fight, 30
 " So in conjunction should their glory shine.

" The hosts of Christ, which to be armed abroad
 " Cost each a mighty price, with little and
 " Followed His banner, few and with distrust ;

" When the commander, who eternal rules, 35
 " Help to his soldiers in their peril gave,
 " Not for their merits but His grace alone ;

- " And as just told thee, brought her beside the aid
 " Of two high champions, by whom acts and words
 " The wrong people might their path regain. 20
 " In that fair region whence the empire blows,
 " Sweet in its breath to open the young houses,
 " Which bring renewal to Europe's note,
 " Set from those shores remote where break the waves,
 " Behind whose waters in its summer course 30
 " The sun from every one at times is hid,
 " Lies Calchorno, city fortunate,
 " Under protection of the mighty shield,
 " On which one lion crouches, one commands.
 " There was he born, the faithful in his love 40
 " To the faith Christian, and the warrior saint,
 " Gentle to friends and terrible to foes;
 " And at creation's instant so replete
 " With every quickening virtue was his mind,
 " By him yet in her womb his mother spoke. 50
 " When the spouses their fulfillment had
 " At the most holy font 'twixt him and birth,
 " Where each to each a mutual vow'd ,
 " She who at baptism had the vow confirmed,
 " Saw in her deans the inseparable fruits 60
 " Which from himself and followers were to spring;
 " And to express by word, what was the deed,
 " From heaven an inspiration gave the name
 " From the possessors of his all in all.

- " And then, with doctrine and with will conjoined,
 " And power pontifical, he took his way,
 " Strong as a torrent from a mighty source ;
 " And on the shoals of honey he struck 100
 " With his whole might, more fiercely on the place
 " Whence with most ferocious the resistance came.
 " From him in after time flowed many streams,
 " Which o'er the garden Catholick were shed,
 " So that more flourishing became the plants. 105
 " If such were one wheel of the two-wheeled car,
 " In which the holy Church assiduous reposed,
 " And reared conqueror on her evil side,
 " Well should the other wheel to thee be known,
 " Of which Saint Thomas ere my coming here 110
 " Made the full confession so clear and full.
 " But the wheel's grooves, traced by the evil edge
 " Of its circumference, is abandoned now,
 " And so the evil is where was the good !
 " The leatherhood, who walked with step direct 115
 " Upon his footsteps' track, are now so changed
 " They place the toe where the saint placed his heel ;
 " And soon the ripening harvest shall expose
 " The evil culture when the harvest comes
 " That in the here no room is left for them. 120
 " True it may be that he, who led by lead
 " Should search our volume, still might find a page
 " On which to read— ' I am what I have been.'

- " But not in Acquaforte, nor Canal,
 " From thence came those who track the written rule
 " Or to abate its rigour or amend. 125
- " Is not it seen Bonaventura's soul
 " Of Bagnoregio, who in mighty trusts
 " Made temporal yield to spiritual aims.
- " Damiano, Agostino here 130
 " Were the first lonely men who lured the feet,
 " And, mastered with the cord, were strands of God.
- " Hugh of St. Victor, too, is here with them,
 " And Peter Margherio, and he of Spain
 " Whose twelve books make him still a light on earth ;
- " Nathan the prophet, and that golden-mouth, 135
 " The Metropolitan, Aemilius, and he
 " Who taught his mind to teach the leading set ;
- " Here is Rabanus, here beside me shines
 " The Abbot Joachim, of Celadria fame, 140
 " With the great gift of prophecy endowed.
- " The praise of this great Pelican to speak
 " The First Thomas moved me by the soul
 " Of his own courtesy and loyal words ;
- " And with us all this company were stored " 145

CANTO XIII

*Scene of the pleiaded Sparta. 16 Thomas resolves Dante's unreal dream. His
 judgment not fully approved respecting the great wisdom of Saturn. His
 reason against prophetic judgments.*

He who would fully know what now I see
 Let him imagine (and the image hold
 While I am speaking, rooted as a rock,) 1
 The fifteen fairest stars by which in space
 The heavens are writhed with light so pure 2
 That all aerial darkness it subdues;
 Let him the Wain imagine unto which
 Our world of heavens rolls from day and night,
 So that revolving it is never led;
 Then let him add the stars which form the mouth 10
 Of that horned space which has its central point
 Where rolls the axis of the primal sphere;
 And then imagine all these stars to form
 Two signs in heaven, like Ariadne's crown,
 That bear she felt the icy cold of death; 15

- " As much as is to human nature given,
 " To have of light, was in all fulness breathed
 " By that Almighty power which made them both; 40
 " Therefore thou wast not at the words I spoke,
 " What time I told thee, ' Second there was none '
 " To the great soul as the fifth light colored
 " Now let thy mental eye my answer note,
 " And thou shalt see thy credence and my words 45
 " Be as the truth as centre in the round.
 " That which must die, that which no death can know,
 " Is but a reflex of that archetype
 " Our God gives birth to of His mighty love;
 " Because that living light which cometh forth 50
 " From God's own light, and which is one with Him
 " And with that love which is with them Trans,
 " In goodness makes His rays converging strike,
 " As on so many mirrors, the like beams,
 " Himself remaining One eternally. 55
 " To the powers alternate it then descends
 " So weakened as it strikes from sphere to sphere,
 " It maketh new but what must fade and die,
 " As were contingencies to be explained
 " As generated things, which are produced 60
 " By heavenly influence, with or without seed
 " The matter forming them, the bond which could
 " Must vary; therefore by the seed impressed
 " Of the First Mind more or less bright they shine;

- " It happens thence that the more true beings forth 75
 " Hence is the species' fruit both good and bad,
 " And men are born varying in mental power.
 " If wholly perfect were the plastic mass,
 " If power actual were supreme in strength,
 " Full would be seen the archetypal light. 80
 " But nature ever falters in the soul,
 " Being in her working like the artist's mind,
 " Which knows the art but owns a trembling hand.
 " Yet of the glorious loss, the insight clear
 " Of the First Cause the wit discerns and moulds, 85
 " Then all perfection truly in it rests.
 " Therefore at first was made our earthly clay
 " In animal perfection wholly pure,
 " There was the Virgin's spotless burden made.
 " So thy opinion my approval wins, 90
 " That human nature never yet has been,
 " Nor ever shall, as in those Persons twin.
 " Now if my reasoning did no farther go,
 " Why didst thou say then, ' Equal he had none ?'
 " So might thy words in questioning commence. 95
 " But that which seemeth dark may be made clear ;
 " Think who he was, think well what moved his choice,
 " When it was said, ' What I shall give thee ask.'
 " I have not spoken thus but that thou may
 " Judge well he was a king who wisdom chose, 100
 " To be in all sufficient a king ;

- " Not this to learn, how many there may be
 " Who meet the spheres of heaven, nor if some
 " With the confingent still answer make ;
- " Nor is it that *primum movens* see, 125
 " Nor if within the *omniscient's* bounds
 " Triangle not right-angled can be made
- " Hence if thou interest what I said and say,
 " This royal wisdom is the pasture due
 " At which the arrow of my purpose points, 130
- " And my word 'rise' to thy mind made clear,
 " Then shalt thou know it reference bears done
 " To Kings, who many art, though few be good
- " With this distinction take what I have said,
 " And take thou it taller with thy faith 135
 " In the first Parent and in our Beloved.
- " And let this be as lead unto thy feet,
 " That like a weary man thou movest slow
 " To yes or no, when yet not clear thy sight ;
- " For amidst fools he holds the lowest place 140
 " Who grants without distinction or denial,
 " Whichever character the cause may bear ,
- " Therefore it happens that too oft men
 " The hasty judgments to the wrong result,
 " Then self-quarrel intellect engenders. 145
- " Worse than to man be starteth from the shore,
 " For as he went so comes he not again,
 " Who angles for the truth without the art ;

- " Eriso, Melincus, and Parmenides,
" And many others, give a world-wide proof 115
" Who marvelled as yet whether men or knee
" So did Socrates, Arima, and those fools
" Who were no records let loose on Italy's Wre
" To turn its wisdom to false records.
" Let not the peoples then be ever held 120
" In judging, like the man who sets the price
" Upon the growing corn ere it be ripe;
" For through the winter season have I seen
" The rose-tree to appearance dead and wild,
" In summer hour aloft the blooming rose; 125
" And I have seen the ship direct and swift
" Complete its voyage in the open sea
" And perch at the entrance to the port.
" And let not Donna Bertha, for Martin,
" Being one steel, another offering make, 130
" Think that they see us in the mind divine,
" For that one yet may rise and this one fall."

CANTO XIV

One of the triumphant legions of the vanguard of Beowulf's fleet by further double of the fleet. Beowulf and Unferth return to the Fæstn. Here, in the body of this Canto, is the appearance of a glorious vision, around and about which lie the scenes of them who have had something for the Faith.

From centre to circumference or reverse,

Water in rounded vessels is impelled,

As from within we strive, or from without,

Into my thought with sudden fancy come

What I now say, soon as the glories ebb

8

Of earthly Thomas had its utterance closed,

By the multitude which had its birth

In his discourse, and that of Beowulf,

Who after him those words was pleased to speak :

" This one hath need, though needing not to ask

12

" Either by voice or even by act of thought,

" Another truth to search unto its roots.

" Inform him if the light which now befalls

" Your spirit's being, shall with you abide

" As at the present is sterility ;

16

" And if it doth remain, then tell him how

" After your resurrection viable,

" It shall not power possess to join the mass."

As by more enrichment impelled and driven,

At times the partners in the festive ring,

Their voices raise, and gladder movements urge ;

So at this earnest and devout request

The holy circles showed increase of joy

Both in their dances and in their wondrous song

He, who is sad because men die on earth

To live in heaven, hath never here beheld

The full refreshment of the eternal meal.

That One and Two and Three who ever live

And ever reign in Three and Two and One,

Not circumscribed, but circumscribing all,

Was in sweet chant repeated thrice by each

Of these glad spirits, with each melody.

For every word it were full round ;

Within the splendour most divinely bright

Of the inner ring I heard a gentle voice—

Perchance the Angel or the Mary spoke—

This answer gave—" So long as shall endure

" The joys of Paradise, so long our love

" Shall spread in radiance round the glorious robe.

" Its brightness shines as our ardour burns,

" This as our vision grows, and this is clear

" Just as grace sublimates our feeble powers.

- " When with the glorified and holy flesh
 " We are reunited, our person then becomes
 " More beautiful, because it is complete ; 40
- " Therefore the gift of light will gain increase
 " Which the Great Good of His free bounty gives ;
 " Light which enables us to see Himself :
- " Hence meet our vision as its darkness grows,
 " Hence grows the ardour which by it is fired, 45
 " Hence brighter grows the ray that sendeth forth.
- " But as the charcoal which gives out the flame,
 " And by its vivid glow so consumes it
 " That its own lowest aspect is sustained,
- " So the great splendour which encircles us, 50
 " Pales at the apparition of the flesh
 " Which always has septuagined in the earth.
- " Nor can a light so great our senses pain,
 " Because the body's organs shall be strong
 " To bear whatever shall to us be joy." 55

Each of these radiant choirs so willing seemed
 And prompt to say Amen, their wish it showed
 With their dead bodies to be clothed again ;

Not for their own sakes only, but perhaps
 For mother's, father's, all they once held dear, 60
 Ere they had yet become eternal flames.

And lo ! like them in glory, flashed abroad,
 A light above the lights already there
 Like a horizon brightened by the sun !

And as when upward spreads the early night,
 New starry forms begin to flock the sky,
 Now evening visible, now scarcely seen,
 So I began new semblances to see
 Of holy essences, which formed a ring
 Ranging beyond the other circles twin,
 Oh, Holy Spirit, thine effulgence true
 Breaks with such sudden glory on mine eyes,
 They cannot bear it and o'erspreads deep !
 But Beatrice so radiant and so fair
 Before me shone, amongst those other sights,
 Which memory holdeth not, must this be left.
 So then mine eyes the needful power regained
 For upward vision, and myself I saw
 Alone with her in most celestial bliss.
 I well perceived a loftier height was mine,
 By the more flaming aspect of the star,
 Which seemed to me as less more red than west.
 With my whole heart, the language of the soul
 Which is in all alike, I thanked my God
 Most fervently for this new gift of grace ;
 And in my heart my fervent prayer of thanks
 As yet was unexhausted, when I knew
 That sweet acceptance it had found with Him ;
 For with each lustre, with each glowing red
 Between two luminous heads the splendour shone,
 I cried, Oh Lord ! " Who makes them glorious thus ? "

As sprinkled o'er with large and smaller stars,
 In glistering whiteness shines between the Poles
 The Milky Way, making the wisest doubt,
 So seen and scattered in the depths of Mars
 Those rays the signs admirable portrayed,
 Which the four Quadrants in the circle mark.
 My genius here before my memory pales,
 For us that meet Christ so effulgent alone,
 That no comparison might match the theme ;
 But he who takes his cross and follows Christ,
 Shall find excuse for what I leave unsaid,
 When Christ shall dash upon him from the noon.
 From arm to arm, from head even to the foot,
 Moved many lights, shooting more vivid rays
 Where they encountered or each other passed.
 Thus upon earth we see in flames or comets,
 Now swift, now slow, now long perhaps or short,
 Atoms of matter ever changing form,
 Moving about the ray by which is sent,
 At times, the shadow which for shatter man
 Labour with art ingenious to invent.
 And as with lute and harp whose many strings
 Attuned to concert make a harmonious sweet,
 Even when the music is not understood,
 So from the light which then my vision filled
 Rose, gathering round the cross, a melody
 Ravishing my sense although unknown the hymn.

Well I perceived it uttered praise sublime,
For to me *Fine* and *congruous* came, 120
As to a man who hears yet weareth not,
My soul was so enamoured with the sound,
That till that moment there was never thing
Which held me bound in bonds so very sweet,
Perhaps my words may seem too ardent here, 125
Slighting the pleasure of her beauteous eyes,
To gaze on which is peace to my desires.
But he who knows that the impress divine
Of every beauty deepens as we rise,
And that till then I had not turned to these, 130
May find excuse for what I charge myself
As my excuse, and see I speak the truth ;
For here that *joy divine* is not displayed,
Since as we mount more glorious it becomes.

CANTO XV.

*There was one of the firm a glorious light, some borrow'd beam, and entering the
Gulf it is the shade of her successor Castagnoli. The spirit descends the steep
craters of the Etna in its way there, and compares them with the
crater of the lake in which the Port lies.*

That will benignant making itself known

In love which always breatheth pure desires,

As evil love is born of will malign,

Slaves upon that desert (ye exposed

And brought to stillness the selected chords,

Which heaven's right hand now slackens and now draws,

Oh, how shall they be deaf to righteous prayers,

Those spirits who to roam in me the wish

To question them, with one accord were made!

It bade to reason, but for ever given

Who for the love of things which have no part

In worlds eternal, casts that love away

As through the evening's pure and calm serene

From time to time a sudden meteor shoots,

Startling the eyes in unconscious slumber,

And meaning him a star which shifts its place,

Serve that the region where its flame ignites

Knoweth no loss, and it so quickly dies ;

So from the right extension of the cross

Far as the foot, shot through the space a star, 10

One of the stellar mass which gladdeneth there ;

And from its shining path went not the gem,

But rolling swept the effulgent line along,

As behind clebeater shores the fire.

So did Anahim's' losing shade appear, 20

If we may trust our most illustrious name,

When in Egyptus he perceived his son.

O Sanguis meus, O sanguis meus

Gratia Dei, mors tibi, vi

Sis sanguis oculi, juncus rebus ? 25

So spoke the light, whence with close regard

I looked on it, then to my lady turned,

and both the light and she entranced my soul ;

For such a smile did gladden in her eyes

That with my own I seemed to touch the depths 30

Of grace divine and my beatitude.

On this, with pleasure both to eye and ear,

The spirit added to its first address

Things so profound, I understood them not ;

And they were hid from me not by his choice, 35

But from necessity, for far beyond

All mortal thought did his conception range.

And when the bow of his overflowing love
Was so intent that his lightning came down

Towards the mark of our intelligence, 20

The first expression which I heard was this—

"Should be Thou, oh God, the Three in One,

"Who to my image hast each favour shown."

And then he said—"That dear and long desire,

"Drawn from perusal of the mighty book, 30

"Where changeless on the page the writing rests,

"Thou hast removed, my son, within this light

"From whence I speak to thee, thanks be to her

"Who to each lofty flight thy pinions planned.

"Thou thinkest that to me thy thoughts are passed 40

"From Him who is the First, as five or six

"Bend from one case in the mind conceived

"And therefore who I am, and why I seem

"More glad to thee than any soul beside

"Of this glad company, thou dost not ask. 50

"And thou art right, for so thy happy life

"Spreads both great and small the mirror search

"In which thy thoughts are seen ere even thought.

"But that the holy love which keeps me bold

"Is ceaseless watching, and within me wakes 60

"Each sweet desire, may have its full content,

"Bound forth thy pleasure, utter thy desire

"With fearless voice, boldly and full of faith,

"For lo! the answer is already there."

- I turned to Beatrice, she heard my words 79
 Ere they were spoken, and she smiled a sign
 Which made the wings of my desire expand.
 "All less," I said, "all power to express the same,
 "As ye know Him who hath no less nor more,
 "For each of you on level balance lay, 82
 "Because that Sea who fights you with His fight
 "And warms you with His warmth, those so adjacent,
 "To find a parallel were wholly vain,
 "But there is men will and effective power,
 "From causes which to you are manifest, 85
 "Are furnished not with wings of equal speed.
 "Whence I, who mortal am, find in myself
 "This inequality, so heart alone
 "Can give thy dear paternal welcome thanks,
 "Thou living tower, thou I fondly prize, 88
 "Who of the precious jewel art a gem,
 "My longings satisfy and tell thy name."—
 "Oh then, the object of which I am not,
 "Whom even to walk for made my spirit glad ;"
 Such were the opening words of his reply, 90
 Which thus proceeded—"he who with his name
 "Thy lineage stamped, and o'er one hundred years
 "Walk the first terrace round the mountain tread,
 "My body's fall, and thy great grandfathers was ;
 "It is befitting that his long fatigue 93
 "Thou shorten by the merit of thy works.

- " Within the ancient circle of the walls,
 " And where even now the hours of prayer are dimmed,
 " Florence was peaceful, temperate, and chaste
 " No golden chains, no jewelled ornaments, 100
 " No gaudy dances, no dances she displayed,
 " Which filled the eye more than the wearer's self.
 " The daughter at her birth had not yet brought
 " Fear to her father, for within the bounds
 " Of a just measure time and dowry came 110
 " She had no houses bare of family ;
 " Sordaniapala had not yet arrived
 " To show the wantonness of chamber vice.
 " The Monte Mario was not yet escaped
 " By your Unostetole, which, surpassed 120
 " As in its rise, so in its fall shall be.
 " I saw Bellinzoni Berli walk abroad,
 " His gentle knee and brother, and his wife
 " Came from her mirror with unpainted face ;
 " Men of the Merli's and the Trochus's race 130
 " I saw content to wear unpurified skins,
 " Whilst their wives plied the distaff and the loom ;
 " Ah, happy women ! certain each to share
 " Her father's sepulchre, none yet to mourn
 " Through Finess's walls, a deserted tomb ! 140
 " One watched the cradle with a loving care,
 " Soothing the infant with the minnie lap,
 " The father's, mother's first and purest joy .

- " Another winding from the staff the deer,
 " Told to her family who clustered round 105
 " The tale of Troy, Fenell, or Rome.
- " As great a wonder it had been to see
 " A Cinghella or a Lago then,
 " As Cincinnatus or Cornelia now
- " A citizenship as fair in its repose, 110
 " A burghership as full of loyal faith,
 " A place of residence so very sweet,
- " Were Mary's answers to a mother's sigh,
 " And in your old hospitalary by one act
 " I was made Christian, Cinghella named. 115
- " My brothers Elmo and Mortado were,
 " And from the Val di Fudo came my wife,
 " And hence and from that source thy tunic came.
- " Then in the Emperor Conrad's steps I trod,
 " And he enrolled me in his knightly band, 120
 " In such high part he took my valiant deeds.
- " With him I went the inquiry to face
 " Of that false king, whose followers had usurped,
 " By your chief pastor's faith, your rightful lands.
- " Then by that man unclean I was set free 125
 " From the deserts of this entangling world,
 " The loss of which has cost so many souls,
 " And from that suffering to this peace I came."

CANTO XVI

*All the power of Dante the Spirit of Virgil's shade the conflict and
prediction of Florence in 1300-1301; also the action and character of the
Squallor from 1300-1301 to 1302*

Ah, pitiful nobility of blood !

If thou art come of boasting to mankind

On earth, where feebly the effluence stay,

No more shall this to me a wonder prove ;

For there where justice never is at fault—

8

I speak of heaven—I make thee still my boast.

Truly art thou a cloak which wears its fast,

Unless we add to it from day to day,

Time with his shears is ever prowling round

Using the pen first brought in use by Homer,

16

But since less practised by the Roman race,

Once more fluted on the current of my words.

Butricio on this, who somewhat stood apart,

Seating, appeared like her who warning coughed

When first Quattro cried, as runs the tale.

24

- " You see my father," so I recommenced,
 " You give me courage all my thoughts to tell,
 " You raise me so, I rise above myself
 " By strength so many in my spirit filled
 " With gladness, 'tis a very house of joy
 " Which can bear all and yet not overflow.
 " Oh, tell me, then, dear founder of my race,
 " Who were your ancestors, how many years
 " Measure the space down to your time of birth?
 " Speak to me of the sheepfold of St. John,
 " How great its glory then, and who were there
 " Among its people mightiest in renown?"

As at the quickening breathing of the wind
 The charred glows, so I beheld this light
 Become more vivid at my courteous words,
 And as to me more beautiful it grew,
 So with an utterance softer and more sweet,
 But not in accents of our modern tongue,

- It answered—" From the day that I was born
 " Down to the hour my mother, now is dead,
 " Was lightened of the load in me she bore,
 " Five hundred times and eighty hath revolved
 " This planet, passing underneath the feet
 " Of its own Lord to renew its fire.
 " My ancestors and I were born where first
 " Is the last station of the city reached
 " By him who runneth at your yearly games.

- " That of my fathers is enough to say,
 " But who they were, and whence they thither came,
 " Silence suits better than to dwell thereon. 40
- " All such as then were fit to carry arms
 " Between the Sepulchre and place of Mass,
 " Formed but a fifth of those now living there.
- " But then the offensiveness, which now is cited
 " From Campi, from Cortoldo, and Figgiano, 45
 " Even to the humblest soldier was pure,
- " How better for the mass of neighbour give
 " To those I speak of, and your frontier line
 " At Trepiase and Galliano lie,
- " Than have within your walls and bear the stench 50
 " Of *d' Agaglion's* and *de Signa's* stench,
 " With eyes already full of better food !
- " Ah, if that people,—as *dogmatists* were !
 " Had not a stephane unto Cesar been,
 " But gentle as a mother to her boy, 55
- " Such a one never had been Florentine,
 " Chaucer and truth-teller, but retained his steps
 " To *Sanalento*, where his grandsons begged.
- " The Conti still had *Montemarte* owned,
 " The *Grilli* still been in *Ancona's* mark, 60
 " In *Val de Greve* the *Bucchi-inconti* still.
- " Hence those wrangling have at all times proved
 " The best beginning of a town's disease,
 " As events too various make the body sick—

- " And a bull blind with rage more quickly falls 75
 " Than the more powerful hawk, and it is found
 " That one sword often cuts more than one.
 " Lays and Urbiagha, if thou wote
 " How they are fallen, and how after them
 " Each Sinagha and Chesi fell, 80
 " Then shalt thou know how rooms disappear,
 " Nor shall this strange and hard of credence seem,
 " Since even mine hasten to an end.
 " All that belongs to you must taste of death
 " Even as yourselves, but where the time is long 85
 " Death seems controlled, so brief is human life.
 " And as the rolling of the lunar sphere
 " To the southeast brings endless ebb and flow,
 " So Fortune with your Florence loves to deal ;
 " Whencefore that should not strange appear which men 90
 " I of these ancient Florentines shall tell,
 " Whose fate is hidden in the mists of time.
 " Ugha, Filippo, Castella, all,
 " Gual, Orsano, Albertini too,
 " Now in deep, disastrous I have seen. 95
 " Great I have seen, as in their lineage old,
 " With the Scallini, men of Arco's blood,
 " Ardighi, Bosticchi, and Sallustier.
 " Near to the gate, now laden with the crime
 " Of a new treason of so great a weight, 100
 " It soon must cause the sinking of the ship,

- " The Savignone dwelt, from whom are sprung
 " The Costa Guida, and whoever since
 " Has obtained the glory of Bellincione's name.
 " Already Pavesi's chief had learnt the art 120
 " How men should rule, and Galgari's halls
 " Shone with the pommel and the belt of gold.
 " The ornate pillar still was great, and great
 " Sacchetti, Giacchi, Offerti, and Barozzi,
 " Galli, and they who at the school blush. 125
 " The stock which threw Galfucci's branches out
 " Was great already, and the Bari note,
 " And Arrighetti in the circle shone.
 " Ah, how many mighty have I seen
 " Whose pride hath now destroyed ! the golden balls 130
 " Made Florence blossom with their noble deeds.
 " That did the honoured ancestors of these
 " Who, ever as your Bishopric is read,
 " Meet in Consistory and in Senate grown.
 " The talbe presumptuous, as a dragon flies 135
 " To those who see them, but to him who shows
 " His teeth or paws, mark as a very hawk,
 " Were high already through its mass of race,
 " That Ubertin Donato it displayed
 " That his wife's father sought to make them kin 140
 " The market now, and not Firenze,
 " Was Capomano's home, and Galla too,
 " And Indignato were good citizens.

- " That I will tell, incredible though true ;
 " To the small area which the city formed, 100
 " The entrance gate was from the Forum called
 " Each one who quartered on his shield the arms
 " Of the great Baron, to whose name and fame
 " St. Thomas at his feast revival brings,
 " Was knight and noble by that right alone ; 110
 " Though to the people's party now is bound
 " He who had edged his crest with fringe of gold.
 " The Gualterotti, important dwelt
 " Tranquil in Borgo, which had known more peace
 " If from now fellow citizens except. 120
 " The house in which your sorrows had their source,
 " Through the just rage which wrought you deadly war,
 " And placed a period to your happy life,
 " Next was honoured with its kinamen all
 " Ah, Brundisimonte, evil were the lips 130
 " Which counselled thee the capital reach to fly !
 " Many would now be happy who are sad,
 " Had God chanced thee to Euse's wave,
 " When to our city first thy footsteps turned.
 " But it was needful, at the shattered stone 140
 " Which guards the bridge, that Florence should supply
 " A victim in her dying days of peace.
 " With houses great like these, with more bands,
 " Florence I saw in such ruthless repose,
 " She knew no sense of sorrow or of tears. 150

- " With houses great as these, glorious I saw,
- " And so upright her people, that the spear
- " Never the lily bore in shame reversed,
- " Nor evil discord tamed the lion to red."

CANTO XVII.

These verses represent Cardenio in better cheer, in his certain words he had found in still to live as in gentle language. He himself the state of his feet and the readiness to write after. Ready he continues to write the journey.

As he was come to Clément to learn

The truth of words injurious to himself,

And still rather fathers gauding to their sons,

So did I feel, and so was this perceived

By Beatrice, and by the holy light,

4

Which to be near me lately shufled place.

Wherefore my lady said—"Hear the lines

"Of thy desire, so that thy words display

"The full impression of thine inner mind ;

"Not that our knowledge may us increase gain

10

"From thy discourse, but thou the habit learn

"To tell thy thirst that men may give thee drink,"—

"Dear parent plant, who art so lifted high,

"Thou, as we see that a triangle's form

"Two obtuse angles cannot comprehend,

16

- "Ere all things contingent ere they be
 "Themselves in essence, looking to the Fount
 "To which all times are present and alike,
 "What I by Virgil's guidance upward climb
 "High on the mount where spirits are made whole, 10
 "And tread descending the dark world of death,
 "Things of my future life to me were told
 "In weighty words, though I may feel myself
 "A very rock to meet the blows of fate.
 "Hence my desire would much rejoice to learn 20
 "What fortune hath in store for coming years,
 "For when foreseen an arrow's flight is slow,"
 Thus to that light I and which had before
 Spoken to me, and as had been the wish
 Of Desires, was my own wish revealed. 30
 Not in dark sayings, which in blindness gross
 Held the immense nations ere was slain
 The Lamb of God Who taketh away,
 But in words clear and loud in their aim,
 This dear progenitor his answer gave, 40
 Hid in his light, yet glistering in his joy—
 "All things contingent which beyond the page
 "Of earth's material volume have no place
 "Are ever present to the Eternal eye ;
 "Yet this no more necessity implies, 50
 "Than when upon the eye of man the ship
 "Is mirrored which the current flatters down.

- " From hence we comeh evenly to the car
 " The organ's harmony, so is my mind
 " Counteth the vision time for thee prepares. 20
- " As Athens saw Hippobitus depart
 " Through his step-mother's perfidy and hate,
 " So from thy Florence must thy foot be turned.
- " This is their wish, this is already sought,
 " This must shall be through those who for it work 25
 " Where traffic all the day is made of Christ
- " The blame will follow where the injury falls
 " In public cry, as wont, but vengeance still
 " Shall witness to the truth which sends it forth.
- " Then shalt leave all behind—all that is done, 30
 " All that is most beloved—and this shall strike
 " First of the arrows shot from evil's bow.
- " Then shalt have very proof how bitter tastes
 " The stranger's bread, and with what weary step
 " The feet descend and mount the stranger's stair. 35
- " And that which most shall weigh thy shoulders down
 " Shall be the company depraved and dull
 " Thou must encounter in thy time of woe,
- " For all, unthankful weak and wicked, all
 " Shall turn against thee ; yet a little hour 40
 " With shame their foreheads shall be red, not white.
- " The issue of the attempt shall be the proof
 " Of its mad folly, leaving them the least
 " That thou didst find thy party in thyself.

- " Thy first repairs, thy first place of rest
 " In the great Lombard's kindness shall be found,
 " Who on the ladder bears the sacred bird,
 " For he shall hold thee in such sweet esteem,
 " In giving and in asking, with you two,
 " That shall be first which with the world is last. 15
- " With him thou shalt behold that one whose birth
 " The planet's influence so deeply marked,
 " That his great deeds will place their mark on time.
- " The nations yet no knowledge have of these,
 " So few his years, for those revolving spheres 20
 " Have nine times only o'er and round him rolled.
- " But ere great Harry feel the Queen's galleys,
 " The sparkle of his virtue shall appear
 " In scores of gold, and slighting of fatigue,
- " So far the note of his magnificence 25
 " Shall spread his fame abroad, that even his foes
 " May not observe them with a silent tongue.
- " Look up to him and in his favour hope;
 " Through him shall many their condition change,
 " The rich to poverty, the poor to wealth; 30
- " Bear on thy mind remembered the things I say
 " Of him, but speak them not;" and then he told
 " What o'er the man who ever will scarce believe:
- Then after added—" Son, thus is the boy
 " To what thou bearest, as the perils loose 35
 " Which he concealed behind some few short years.

" And yet I would not thou in every hold

" Thy fellow citizens, since thy future life

" Goes for their treason's punishment beyond."

After the muted spirit ceased to speak, 100

By silence showing he had placed the woe

In the same web where I had placed the woe,

I then commenced like one who greatly moves

In his own doubt counsel of my one

Who knows, both upright mind and loving heart— 105

" Well, oh my father, do I see how true

" Hinder towards me to indite the stroke

" Most grievous there where most the outrage lies;

" Therefore with foresight it is good to arm,

" That if removed of my dear, much loved home, 110

" I may not by my name lose other home,

" Down in the world of everlasting woe,

" And on the glorious summit of the mount,

" Lifted from whence by my dear lady's eyes,

" And afterwards through heaven from star to star, 115

" I things have learnt which to repeat would bring

" A better career unto many hearts).

" And if I seem a timid friend to truth,

" 'Tis from the fear of losing mine with those

" Who shall call ancient this now passing time." 120

The light in which the much-loved treasure shined

Which I had found, first gloriously flamed

As a gold mirror in the solar ray,

And then it answered me—"A conscience stained,

" Or by its own or by another's shame, 121

" Shall truly find the words thou speakest harsh ;

" Yet not the less must all desert aside,

" Let all thy vision be defined and clear,

" And let him feel the pain who owns the wound ;

" For if thy language shall at first be found 122

" Harsh to the taste, 'twill prove good aliment

" After digestion shall have played its part.

" Thy cry shall be in action as the wind,

" Which strikes the highest peaks with greatest force ;

" And thus of honour is no telling proof. 123

" Therefore are shown thee in these rolling spheres,

" Upon the mount and in the delicious vale,

" Only those spirits who had mighty fame ;

" For he who knows himself no content,

" Nor pattern in example any finds 124

" Which come from sources hidden or obscure,

" Nor yet in people which are not clearly seen."

CANTO XVIII.

Statues personated in Dante many glorious spirits who in the dark had sought for the light. They then ascent into the North Heaven or that of Jupiter. This is the state of such as in life have loved justice and governed by its laws. Not masters of Power and Conquestive. Many glorious spirits join themselves into the shape of an Eagle which symbolizes the Imperial Justice. These therefore against Pope Boniface.

Now, self-absorbed, in his own thoughts reposed

That blessed Spirit, and I avowed mine,

With bitter memories tempering my sweet;

And she who to my God had led me, mild—

“ Give thy thought change, consider that I am

1

“ Nigh unto Him who lightens every wrong.”

I turned about towards the loving voice

Of my sweet comforter, and what I saw

Of love in her pure eyes I leave untold ;

Not solely that my words I have mistrust,

2

But it surpasseth memory to recall

So high a vision without aid of grace ;

This of that time I may alone recount,

That in beholding her, my heart's desire

Was disannihilated of all other wish.

3

Whilst the eternal pleasure which direct
 Streamed upon Beatrice, from her fair face
 To me reflected, gave entire content,
 Dazzling me with the glancing of a smile,
 She said to me—" Turn thee around and let,
 " Not in mine eyes alone is Paradise!"
 As oft we see the countenance of man
 Express his passion, if its strength be such
 That the whole soul is bidden in its grasp,
 So in the flashing of the earnest gaze
 To which I turned, I recognised the wish
 Somewhat still farther to discourse with me.
 And it began—" In this fifth stage of rest,
 " Mounting the tree whose summit is its life,
 " Which bears fruit always, never youth leaves,
 " Are Spirits blest, who, in the ether roam.
 " Ere they had come to heaven, were so rewarded,
 " They furnished themes for every Man's song.
 " Wherefore look to the arms which form the cross,
 " There be I now shall name will do us doth
 " The fire electric in its nature dwell."
 Adwrest the moon I saw a light to flash
 As he gave utterance unto Joshua's name,
 Nor did I hear the word before the act.
 And at the name of the great Mumbler,
 I saw another light move rolling on,
 And gladness was the look which made it roll.

So with Orlando, and with Charlemagne,
 My lack observant trusted two other lights,
 As the eye followeth the falcon's wing. 21
 Next Robert Guiscard, William, and the Duke
 Godfrey of Bouillon, and Richard drew
 In and along the cross my winking eyes.
 Then with the other lights moving and mixed,
 The spirit of the speaker made me know 22
 How high he ranged in the celestial choir.
 Towards my right hand then I turned around
 That I might see in Beatrice declared,
 By act of here or word, what I should do,
 And ah ! her eyes were as scenery bright, 23
 So full of joy, in aspect she surpassed
 All others, and what she herself had born.
 And as with feeling of enlarged delight,
 The man who worketh righteousness, perceives
 His virtue gaining strength from day to day ; 24
 So I perceived the sweep of my ascent
 In the ex-circling heavens, had wider grown,
 Seeing her beauty's marvellous increase.
 And like the change which with each softness comes
 O'er a pale woman's cheek, when from the face 25
 The blush of modesty hath passed away ;
 So as I turned she seemed unto my sight
 Changed by the chastened brightness of the star,
 Sixth of the Planets which had me received.

I saw in this repeating torch of Jove
 The sparkling of the lava which driest thence,
 Picture the Latin letters to mine eyes,
 And as birds rising from the street's banks,
 As if in joy at their new looking place,
 More now in circles, now in marshalled lines,
 So in their lights did holy creatures fly
 With gentle flight, and staying as they made
 The figures of a D, an L, or E.
 Singing they moved at first to their own song;
 Assuming then one of those spoked forms
 They moved while their movements and were hushed,
 On their divine College, from whom
 Goes forth glory, and immortal life,
 And by their aid makes realms and cities great !
 Quakes me with thought, so that I paint
 Those figures as they were by me conceived ;
 In these few verses let thy power be shown.
 Those creatures then formed letters seven times four,
 Vowels and consonants, and I noted well
 Each in its order as they written seemed.
 Difficile justitiam were the first
 Of the whole picture, substantive and verb,
 Qui judicatis terram were the last.
 Afterwards in the M of the fifth word
 They passed in order, as disposed, that Jove
 Sawed them of silver beautified with gold ;

And other lights I saw descend and rest
 Upon the summit of the latter M,
 Singing, I think, His praise who wills them thus.
 Then, as when glowing brands together strike, 100
 Innumerable rise the burning sparks,
 Whence foolish men are prone wont to draw,
 More than a thousand lights there seemed to rise
 And upwards float, some higher, others less,
 Just as the sun, which lights them, had assigned; 110
 And each one in its place being fixed and still,
 I saw an eagle's head and neck appear
 In very likeness to that glorious One.
 He who deposeth here no teacher hath,
 But teacheth all Himself, from Him proceeds 120
 That faculty which gives form to man.
 That other blessed hand, content at first
 To form a crown of light round the M,
 With gentle stir now made the shape complete.
 Sweet Planet, ah, how many precious years 130
 Have proved to me that justice upon earth
 Is but the work of heaven which thou behest'st.
 Therefore I pray the Word, in whom have source
 Thy movement and these influences, to behold
 Whence comes the smoke which maketh due thy ray; 140
 So that His sugar once again may fall
 On those who in the temple here and sell,
 Whose martyr's blood and sinews had heark,

Ah, heavenly host, my contemplation high !

Pray for the souls, who living in the world. 110

By bad example all are gone astray.

Men once were wont to make their war with words,

But now 'tis made by talking here and there

The bread which the good Father gives to all.

But thou who writest only to deceive, 120

Think well that Paul and Peter, who once died

To save the vice thou speakest, are still alive

Will suspect thou say, my whole desire is food.

On him who wished in solitude to live,

And who was martyred to reward a dance, 130

Neither the fisherman nor Paul I know,

DATE: 11/13/2011

The Imperial Eagle species. There is disturbed with doubts as to the possibility of there being several like never heard of Christ. (Red notes are shared by both families in disturbed and immature forms from the history and abundance of previous Christian history.)

Before me with extended wings appeared
 That brazenous shape, which in fruition sweet
 Made glad the spirits congregated there,
 Each one a little ruby seemed, in which
 The radiant sun so gloriously burned,
 That on mine eyes its whole reflection fell
 And what at present my description shins,
 No voice hath spoken and no ink transcribed,
 Nor hath it ever been of fancy born;
 For lo! I saw and even heard the bird,
 And in its notes the words were I and Mine,
 Though in conception they were We and Ours,
 And it began—"From I was and past,
 "And therefore to that glory lifted up,
 "Which no dust's eye knows or sees!"

"And I on earth so fair a memory left,
 "The wicked even do not prize withhold
 "Although they do not imitate my deeds."
 As many burning souls threw out a hail
 One to the wise, so many loving souls
 Rooted from the shape are only wail.
 And then I said—"Oh, ye perpetual flowers
 "Of the Eternal gladden, who, though seen,
 "Make all your odours my perception reach,
 "Blessed forth thy words and make that grant desire
 "Which for long time hath made me hunger sore,
 "Feeding on earth no food to satisfy
 "Will do I know, if other states be known
 "God's divine justice by reflection see,
 "Ye can apprehend it with no veil between.
 "Ye know how earnestly I am prepared
 "To know, the nature of my doubt ye know,
 "Its greatness, now my all and craving wish,"
 As when the hood is lifted off its head
 The falcon moves, and joyful beats his wing,
 Proud in his beauty, eager for the light,
 So did I see the bird imperial, flamed
 Of spirits' raging land to grace divine
 With songs well known to the glad souls of heaven.
 And then it spoke—"He who with compass marked
 "The contour of the world, and in its sweep
 "Insisted as much, both led and measured,

- " Could not so place the impress of His mind
 " On the wide universe, that still His word
 " Should not remain in infinite silence. a
- " And this is certain, for the first great Foe,
 " Who of all creatures was most excellent,
 " Scorning the light, fell creature to earth ;
 " Hence every manner nature would appear
 " To be a small recipient for that good b
 " Which is the infinite measured by itself.
- " Our understanding, then, which we must hold
 " To be a ray of the eternal mind
 " Of which all things in Heaven and earth are full,
 " In its own nature cannot power possess c
 " So great, as not to see its source divine
 " Is mightier far than it appears to be ;
 " Into the justice everlasting then
 " The insight man receives, no deeper goes
 " Than doth the eye into the mighty surge ; d
- " Which though it sees the bottom from the shore,
 " Doth not in open ocean, yet not less
 " Lie there, but hidden in the depths profound,
 " There is no light but that from heaven derived e
 " Where trouble shines not, darkness is all else,
 " Or dusky blindness or its dusky frosts
 " Now wholly open is the secret place
 " Which from thy sight the living justice hid,
 " Of which so often thou hast question asked ;

" For thou hast said ' Upon the broken rocks
 " A man is born, there no one preacheth Christ,
 " None reads of Him, none writes of Christian truth,
 " And all his wishes and his acts are good,
 " So far as human reason can perceive,
 " His deeds are sinless, unblemish'd his words.
 " If without faith and unrepentant he die,
 " How call that justice which condemneth him ?
 " If he believe not, where can be his sin ?
 " But who art thou, who sittest as a judge
 " To measure out ten thousand miles of space
 " With power of vision trifling as a span ?
 " True be who thus with me should challenge,
 " Were not the Holy Scriptures given for guide,
 " Would had much room for wonder and for doubt.
 " Oh, creature of the dust, oh, spirit-dull !
 " The Primal Will, in its own essence good,
 " Is Himself over, being the Lord supreme !
 " Just as to Him attained, the note is true,
 " No good created draws Him to itself,
 " But He, in radiance, of the good is cause."
 As o'er the mist the work is done, wheels,
 After her kind of young ones have been fed,
 And as to her the wailing fledgling looks,
 So the blessed image did, and so did I
 Mine eyes uplift, because his junction morned,
 Stirred by so many wills to wait there.

Wheeling, it sang and said—" As are the words

" I speak to thee who understandest them not,

" So the eternal judgments are to men."

After they ceased to move, those lucid lines

100

Of the most Holy Spirit, still in form

Of the great emperors of the Roman power,

Again it spoke—" Unto this blessed realm

" None ever came, believing not on Christ,

" Neither before the nailed cross nor since.

105

" But note then this, many who cry, Lord, Lord,

" Shall in the judgment be less near to Him

" Than those who Christ have never known nor heard;

" Christians like them the Eternity shall court,

" When from the great Cherson one shall go

110

" To wealth eternal, one to endless woe.

" What can the Persians to your monarchs say,

" When they shall see the volume's page displayed,

" On which are written all their evil deeds?

" There among Aleric's works shall this be seen,

115

" This which shall crown the judge's righteous pen,

" The realm of Frigot a very desert made.

" There shall be seen the woe which has been wrought

" On the Seine's banks by the false money coined

" By him to whom a wild boar's tusk was death.

120

" There shall be seen the unbelieved gods which reared

" To foolish madness Englishmen and Scot

" To hold in more the boundaries of their realm.

- " There soon the luxury and sensual life
 " Of Spain's high monarch, and Bohemia's king, 105
 " Who never virtues knew nor cared to know.
 " There soon the sultan of Jerusalem,
 " His goodness by the figure One expressed,
 " Which by a Thousand are his vices shown.
 " There shall be seen the sultan and the 110
 " Of him who rules Sicily a fiery side,
 " Where good Archimedes closed his aged eyes;
 " And to give proof how mean he was of soul,
 " Harred are the letters which his story write,
 " And tell much evil in a little space. 115
 " There shall all see the shameless arts by which
 " His uncle and his brother have seduced
 " So great a nation, and two crowns to shame.
 " And he of Portugal, and Norway's king,
 " Shall there be seen, and he the Russian Prince 120
 " Who to his answer saw Venetian gold.
 " Ah, happy Hungary, if all usage now
 " She will no longer bear! ah, blest Norway,
 " If now her armour be the mountains round!
 " And by this earnest, each must now believe, 125
 " That Pannagosta and Nivoda both
 " Lament, and cry aloud for their foul heat,
 " Which with the others may with justice lead."

CANTO XX.

In this Canto the Eagle speaks of Kings who were just and virtuous. Miscellaneous figures of the Poet's imagination. His language rich, Trope and Euphuism now and then appear and even in Paradise. Reasons are given in very figurative and poetic language.

When he who the whole world's expense illumines
 Strucketh below this hemisphere of ours,
 And day on every side is feeling that,
The heavens by him above so lately lit,
 Are in an instant even again to glow
 With many lights, borrowing their light from one.
This state of heaven to my remembrance came,
 Soon as the blessed image of the world
 And of its government had ceased to speak ;
For all that company of living lights,
 More and more hushed, charmed songs divine,
 Now faint and feeble in my memory.
Oh, tender love, clothing thyself in smiles,
 How glowing didst thou seem in those sweet times,
 Which only breathe the breath of holy thoughts!

After those precious and most hallowed gems,
 By which the earth's light jewelled I beheld,
 From their angelic harmony had ceased,
 A river's murmur then I seemed to hear,
 From rock to rock descending clear and full, 20
 Showing the richness of its mountain source.
 And just as sound at the lute's touch restores
 Its modulation, and the player's breath
 Enters within the openings of the reed,
 So with a sudden break of silence came 25
 A murmur from the eagle, rising up,
 Up by the throat, hollow as if within.
 And this was changed to utterance, and then
 At length assumed the shape of very words,
 Such as my heart desired, and given them. 30
 "That part is not which sees and hears the sun
 " In mortal eyes," thus to me it spoke,
 " Calls upon thee for fixed observance now ;
 " For of the lights of which my shape is formed,
 " Those which as eyes are sparkling in my head 35
 " Of their degree are greatest and the best.
 " This centre one, which like the pupil shines,
 " Was the most Holy Spirit's pulchrest sweet,
 " Who gave the ark of God from town to town,
 " He knoweth now the merit of his song, 40
 " So far as in himself the choice was free,
 " By the reward which is proportionate.

" That of the five, which form mine *symples's* arch,
 " And hath its place therein the most in front,
 " Concluded the widow grieving for her son ;
 " He knoweth now how dear a price it costs
 " Christ not to follow, by the experiences gained
 " Of this sweet life and of its opposite.
 " That following next in the circumference
 " Of which I speak, taking the upper curve,
 " By a true penitence his death redeemed ;
 " He knoweth now that the Eternal Judge
 " Hath never change, though *hithith* proper on earth—
 " Until to-morrow this day's doom defer.
 " The next in place, the pastor to exalt,
 " Through good intentions bearing evil fruit,
 " Made himself Greek with me and with the host ;
 " Now knows he that the evil which had sown
 " In his good action, though to him no hurt,
 " Hath been albeit destruction to the world
 " And that thou wert in the descending curve
 " Was William, and his loss that land deplores
 " Which grieves that Charles and Frederick are alive ;
 " Now will he know how barren itself hath joy
 " In a just King, and in the virginal dash
 " Of his own brilliancy he shows it still.
 " Who in the world of error would believe
 " That Trey's Ephie in this arch would be
 " The *50th* in order of those holy ladies !

- " Now hath he knowledge of the grace divine,
 " Deeper and better than the world perceives,
 " Although his vision go not to its depths."
 As the lark rears the untrodden air,
 Now full of song, now still, as if content
 And dazed with the last ravens of its song,
 So seemed to me that figure bearing stamp
 Of the Eternal pleasure, at whose will
 All things created what they are, become.
 And though I was in reference to my doubt,
 As in the crystal to the colouring lust,
 I did not let the time in silence lag,
 But from my lips the words, " What things are these ?"
 By their own current purpose were impelled ;
 And then I saw a mighty gliding flash,
 And after this, with eye more full of fire,
 The blood design thus to me replied,
 Not to probing my wondering response—
 " I note that great violence to those things
 " Because I speak, but dost not see the why ;
 " So that, although believed, they yet are hid
 " Thus dost as he who something by its name
 " Well apprehends, but of its essence hath
 " No knowledge, till another make it known.
 " Against *Castro* infinite violence
 " From ardent love and from a firing hope,
 " Which is all-embracing with the Will divine ;

- " Not in the fashion man o'er man prevails,
 " But it is conquered because wishing it,
 " And conquered, with its goodness conquers still.
 " The first soul in the system, and the fifth 100
 " Come wonder as thou, for thou meet as thou
 " A very glory to the angelic realm.
 " They left the flesh, not Gentiles as thou think'st,
 " But Christians, firm in faith, for one of whom
 " Christ's suffering was to come, for man was just ; 105
 " Because from hell, where to return to God
 " None ever wills, his body was resumed,
 " And thus of living hope was the reward ;
 " Of living hope, which wrestled in the strength
 " Of urgent prayer to bring him back to life, 110
 " So that his will might yet be stirred to good.
 " The glorious spirit of whom now I speak,
 " For a brief time once more returning back,
 " In Him believed who had the power to help ;
 " And his belief so with the fervour glowed 115
 " Of love divine, that when again he died,
 " Worthy he was to share this place of bliss,
 " The other spirit, through a grace which flows
 " From as profound a fount, no living eye
 " Had ever power unto its source to pierce, 120
 " All love he had on earth to justice gave,
 " Therefore God shared him, adding grace to grace,
 " The story of redemption yet to come.

- " So he believed, and from that hour no more
 " Could he the sink of paganism brook,
 " But sought the blinded nations to improve
 " These millions there, whom erstwhile thus did see
 " At the right wheel, for hapless were to him
 " More than a thousand years ere hapless was.
 " Predestination ! ah, how far remote
 " Are thy deep springs from their intelligence,
 " Who see not totally the First Great Cause !
 " You, ah, ye mortals, take a wary heed
 " Unto your judgments, for we, seeing God,
 " Know not as yet the whole of the deed.
 " Ah, woe to us in this great ignorance,
 " Because our life is perverted in this,
 " That what God wills, that we also will."
 Thus, therefore, from the figure all divine,
 To make my insufficient vision clear,
 A nothing unfolds to me was given.
 And as a skilled harpist makes the chord
 Vibrate in concert with the singer's skill,
 So that the song more exquisite becomes;
 Thus while it spoke I to remembrance called
 That I beheld the two celestial lights,
 As the two symbols in concordance set,
 Move at the words with brighter glow of flame.

CANTO XXI

The First stanza is famous. This plant is the shade of acacia which, upon its leafy bough, lived its holy contemplation. Its Green character has shade of First Immortal, who moves his leaflets respecting Transmutation. Contrast between the Position of Dante's idea and the holy signification.

- Once more mine eyes were fixed upon the face
Of Beatrice, and with them went my soul,
And from all other thoughts it was withdrawn ;
And yet she smiled not, but addressed me thus—
" Were I to smile, then wouldn't thou be like
" To Smiles, when smiles she beams ;
" Because my beauty, which upon the steps
" Of the eternal palace, richer grows,
" As thou hast seen, the higher we ascend,
" Were it not tempered, so intensely shines,
" Thy natural forces would before the blaze
" Be as the leafy branch the thunder rends.
" Up to the seventh splendour we are borne,
" Which now beneath the Lion's flaming breast
" Redoubles commingling influences on earth.

" See that thy mind be servent to thine eyes,
 " And mirrors make of them to take the shapes
 " Which in this lowest planet shall appear."

Whoe'er sensitive have lovingly I feel
 Upon the aspect of her blest self, 20
 When to another's care my thoughts were turned,
 Must know how pleasantly my heart was moved
 To give obedience to my heavenly guide,
 Placing in counter-balance this and that,
 Within this wheel-revolving crystal orb, 30
 Bearing the name of earth's good king of old,
 Under whose sway all wickedness was drest,
 Coloured like gold, which glitters in the sun,
 I saw a ladder reaching to a height
 Far, far beyond the compass of my view, 40
 Also I saw descending by the steps
 So many splendours, that I thought the light
 Of the whole firmament was there diffused,
 And as by habit to their nature fit
 The swans together, at the break of day, 50
 Flap their drilled pinions to recover warmth,
 Then some depart returning there no more,
 Others come back to their first place of flight,
 And others wheeling on the spot remain ;
 It seemed to me that somewhat thus it was 60
 With the bright throng which came together down,
 As to a certain step they all attained ;

- And one of them which nearest to me stopped
 Shout with such lustre, that in thought I said—
 "Truly I see thy love in this its sign;" 20
 But she from whom I went the hour and when
 To speak or silent be, was mute, so I,
 Curbing my wish, did well to question not.
 She upon this who had my silence seen,
 In the regard of him who with me, 25
 Said to me—"Satisfy those silent wish"
 And I began—"The merit I possess
 "Makes me not worthy of those sacred, ears
 "Through her who gives me leave to make request,
 "Oh, blessed spirit I who comesth bid 30
 "Within thy gladden, grant to me to know
 "The reason thou approachest me so close,
 "And tell me wherfore silent in that sphere
 "In the sweet symphony of Paradise,
 "Hymned so devoutly in the spheres below?"— 35
 "Mortal, thy hearing is as in thy sight,"
 He made me answer; "here no song is heard
 "For the same cause thy holy ceased to speak.
 "Down by the holy ladder's steps I came
 "Thus far, my whole intent to make thee glad 40
 "With words and with the light which is my robe.
 "Thou not from greater love I quicker come,
 "For love is great and greater burns above,
 "As note thou the effulgence marketh plain.

²² That love desire, which makes us proud to serve

²⁴ The guiding Providence which rules the world.

"As they perceived, make the election here."—

"Well do I see," I said. "do you need help?"

²² There have not occurred in the last resort.

^a *Heads power accounts for seven the stored seed.*

²² That, when the new program failed the first round.

^a When these above-mentioned words

“Of the numerous that exist in nature.”

I had not yet pronounced my closing word.

When making money on stock, the best

Response: No particular issue is raised with

Three focus articles explored the Israeli study—

²² The latter device is less efficient and costs less.

²² Therefore this book where I explained and said:

²² The power with my intelligence combined.

"There was no other alternative," I said.

* The Supreme Court struck it down.

"From the the classroom comes which makes me think.

■ **Top point on I-95** **Wash. jersey** **above**

²² *It is the brightness of my earliest dawn.* 22

²² And yet that soul, the brightest in the heavens,

* That conviction with me goes hand in hand.

■ To answer the question about real numbers:

“For what they asked in the great storm.”

²² Of the dozens started here no dogs.

"To all concerned members of the club,

- " And in the world of men, at thy return,
 " Recount thou this, that no one may presume
 " To move towards a mystery so profound.
 " The island which here is light, is dark on earth ;
 " Therefore behold how can it do below
 " What here it cannot though by heaven adorned."

His words placed such a shock upon my will,

That I my question waived, and was content
 With much humility to ask his name

- " Twist the two shores of Italy, not far
 " From thine own land, north a rocky mass
 " So high, that far below the Guardian roll
 " The fumes a ridge, which Caters is called ;
 " And at its base is found a lonely shrine,
 " Raised for the worship of the one true God."

Thus for the third time he took up his speech,

And then continued—" This was my abode,
 " And there my God so truly did I serve,

- " No food I knew save what the dove yields ;
 " Calmly I passed my days, in heat or cold,
 " On thoughts contemplative content to dwell,
 " Once to these heavenly realms this cloister gave
 " A phantoms wing, but in no haven won,
 " That soon must the transgressions be revealed."

- " I in this place Five Dantinos was,
 " But was the sinner Peter in the house
 " Called of our lady upon Adria's shore

- " Not many years remained to me of life
 " When I was grasped and thrust to take the lot, 125
 " Which passes down from evil unto worse.
 " When Ophias came, and of the Holy Ghost
 " The Chosen Vessel, here and here of Fort,
 " With charity's sweet flow they were content.
 " Now modern pastors need on either side 130
 " Ushers to help them, men to carry them,
 " So fit they are, and bearers for their train ;
 " With lovely clothes their palfrays they bedeck,
 " So that two beasts are covered by one skin.
 " Ah, God, how much Thy help pines for bears ! " 135
 As the voice spoke, more little ferrets I saw
 Descend from step to step ; and as they whirled,
 At every wheel more beautiful they were
 Surrounding this one, then they moved to more,
 And cried aloud with such a mighty cry 140
 No earthly noise might be with it compared,
 Nor knew I ought, so vanquished by the sound.

CANTO XXII.

A bright laureate saw the present degraded condition of the Philippine Colonies and sought to turn their minds into the sphere of the ideal, man's freedom in the mind. He looks down from Heaven on the Powers and the World of Man beneath him.

- Oppressed with sorrow, to my grade I turned
With the same confidence a little child
Rises to the dearest object of its trust ;
And she, with the sweet hands a mother brings
Assistance to her pale and panting boy
In the dear voice so wont to soothe,
Said—" Knowest thou not that now thou art in heaven,
" And knowest thou not that heaven all holy is,
" And that all here is done through righteous and I
" How much thou hast been changed, leaving the song
" And using my words, thou now canst truly judge,
" Since by this cry so slightly detached,
" The paper contained in which hast thou but heard,
" To thee already were the vengeance known,
" Which thou shalt see before thy dying day.

" The sword divine strikes not its blow in haste,

" Nor tardily, sure is the sight of him

" Who may smite it with doom or dread.

" But towards others turn thou now around,

" For spirits most illustrious shalt thou see

" If, as I tell thee, thou thy look direct."

I turned mine eyes as she was pleased to will,

And saw a hundred little spheres, and these

Mingling their rays, more beautiful became.

I was like one who gazes within himself

The edge of his desire, and doth not seek

To question, fearing he may ask too much ;

And so the largest and most bright one

Of these celestial pearls towards me came

To make itself the sphere of my wish.

Then from within I heard—" If thou couldst see,

" Even as I do, the love which in us burns,

" All thy desires had freely been expressed ;

" But that thou may not by delay be checked

" In thy great purpose, I shall never give

" To that chief thought thou hast so much at heart.

" The summit of that mountain, on whose slope

" *Caesars* rest, was once the great resort

" Of men illustrious and all disposed,

" And I am he, the first who thither bore

" The name of Him who to the earth conveyed

" The truth which does so sublimely us here ,

- " And such a stream of grace upon me flowed,
 " That I withdrew the towns and places round
 " From the false worship which seduced the world. 25
 " Those other scenes were all in lightning men
 " Of contemplation, quickened by that host
 " Which brings to birth all holy fruits and flowers
 " Here in Nazareth, Ramoths there,
 " And here my brethren where the splinter walls 30
 " Made wound of body, residue of heart."
 And then I said—" The affection which thy words
 " Fervid unto me, and the fair meaning, too,
 " I see and note in all your radiant lights,
 " Have made my confidence in thee expand, 35
 " As the sun makes the rose, when it displays
 " The full and utmost glory of its flower.
 " Wherefore I pray thee, Father, let me know
 " If I be capable of so much grace
 " As to behold thy face without the veil!" 40
 On which he said—" Brother, thy wish sublime
 " Shall be fulfilled in the Egyptian sphere,
 " Where man and all desires fulfillment find
 " There perfect, ripe, and in itself entire, 45
 " In each desire, for in that sphere alone
 " Is every part as it hath ever been,
 " For place it knows not, nor revolves on poles,
 " And high even unto it our ladder mounts,
 " Wherefore its top compasseth from thy sight.

- " Into the bosoms the patriarch Jacob saw
 " The very summit of the ladder reach,
 " When it seemed laden with angelic weight.
 " But to ascend it now none ever stir
 " His foot from earth, and so my rule remains,
 " Not to waste paper in the world below,
 " Walls which were once the bounds of holy ground
 " Are become dens of thieves, and the monk's head
 " Only a sack of foul and rotting flour.
 " But neither wary silence nor so much
 " Against God's holy pleasure, as that fruit
 " Which bringeth folly to the hearts of monks.
 " For so much as the Church may hold in ward
 " Belongs to such as ask for love of God,
 " Not for their box, or something worse than kin.
 " The flesh of men is of such filthy stuff,
 " What may be well begun loses not the time
 " From the soil's planting to the sown's growth.
 " Peter began with gold and silver none,
 " I in the strength of fasting and of prayer,
 " And Francis made humility his rule.
 " And if then what will how each began,
 " And then observe whether each hath strayed,
 " Thus shalt perceive the white is turned to brown.
 " But Jordan's waters backwards driven, the sea,
 " Purging its waves at the great word of God,
 " Were muchelier wonder than were success here ! "

Thus did he speak, and afterwards rejoined
 His brotherhood, and all together drove,
 Then like a whirlwind swept themselves aloft.
 One sign from my sweet lady made me haste 100
 To follow after by those holy steps,
 So much her power my sluggish nature stirred ;
 Never on earth, where man ascends or falls,
 Was known a natural movement to compare
 In its great swiftness with my uprised flight. 110
 As I may hope, oh, reader, to return
 To this celestial glory, which hath brought
 Tears for my sin, and smiling for my lament,
 Thou hadst not placed thy finger in the fire
 And plucked it out, ere I had seen the sign 120
 Which follows Taurus, and had entered it.
 Oh, glorious planets ! oh, thou pregnant light
 With mighty influences ! and to which I owe
 All that may be of genius I possess ;
 With you had risen and with you had set 130
 He who is Father of all mortal life,
 When first I breathed the breath of Tuscan air ;
 And when I entered afterwards by grace
 Into the lofty sphere with which you roll,
 Thy region was allotted me by fate. 140
 To you devoutly now my spirit breathes
 In prayer for strength to face the toil sublime
 Of that high matter which absorbs my soul.

" Thus art so near thy place of bliss supreme,"

Desire began, " that it is right thou have

120

" These eyes discerning and thy vision clear,

" Therefore before thou further plunge thyself,

" Look down, beneath thee see how large a part

" Of the great world already I have placed,

" So that thy heart with all its wealth of joy

125

" May be laid here to the triumphant band,

" Which fill with gladness this ethereal round."

To the seven spheres I turned and bent my look,

Down by them all, and lo! the globe I saw

So small that its poor aspect made me smile !

130

And that man's judgment I upheld for best,

Who has it most in scorn, and he who thinks

On higher worlds may truly wise be held.

I saw the daughter of Latona shine

Without that shadow which was once the cause

135

That I believed her substance rare and dense.

The aspect, ah, Hyperion, of thy son

I now sustained, and I could see how near,

And round him *Hein* and *Dione* rolled

Here, too, I saw the tempering fire of Jove,

140

"Twixt son and father, and to me were plain

Those variations which their hearings missed,

And unto me all seven made manifest

How great they are, how swift in their career,

And how in distance just each holds its place.

145

This little space of which we are so proud,
As I turned round with the eternal Twins,
I wholly saw from mountain to the sea ;
Then to the eyes of beauty mine I turned.

CANTO XXIII

*Wondrous vision of the strength of Nature. — Love and duty are linked inseparably
by an infinite love of nature and whole. — Miracle of the Pacific (a subject) and
longing. — The Angel Gabriel-Godwin's life as a flowing love to serve Mary*

As a bird, after nesting with its young
In sweet repose beneath the leaves beloved,
In the dull night when everything is hid,
That she may see the objects of her love,
And to procure the food to nourish them, 5
Sweet labour, in its very trouble sweet !
Perched on the open branch she waits the day,
And with a longing wish awaits the sun
With gaze unbroken till the dawn is born ;
Thus stood my lady with her form erect 10
Turned with eagerness towards that space in heaven
In which the sun most slowly seems to move ;
So at her wistful and expectant look
Like I became to one whose longing wish
Craved something new, and hoping was content. 15

But between this and that the time was short,—

I mean between expectation and the sight

Of the fast growing brightness of the heaven.

And Beatrice said—"Behold, behold the host

"Of the triumphant Christ ! lo, the whole host 19

"And gathered harvest of those stiring spheres !"

All glowing as with fire her slange seemed,

And such a glorious gladness filled her eye,

I have no words to tell it, no pass on.

As in the times serene of the full moon 20

Tween among the nymphs stored souls,

Who flock with beauty all the rank of heaven,

High above lights unnumbered I beheld

A sun dominating each and all,

As in our starry firmament our sun ; 21

And through the living and transparent light

The lowest expanse with such glory flushed,

Mine eyes could not its majesty contain.

" Ah, Beatrice," I cried, " gentle sweet and dear !"

And then she said—" That which we compare thee 22

" Is power divine which nothing can resist.

" Lo ! here the window, here the sight of Him

" Who between heaven and earth revealed the way,

" For ages long the great desire of man."

As from the cloud the impetuous lightnings break, 23

From lack of space for dilatation there,

And against nature downwards flak to earth,

So led by those divine delights, my soul,
More large becoming, from itself escaped,
And what it did cannot to memory bring—
“Open thine eyes, behold me as I am;
“Things thou hast seen which unto thee have given
“The power thou needest to sustain my smile.”
I was as one reading to himself
Some long-forgotten dream, and who essays
In vain to give it form when he would,
At this sweet overture, worthy in truth
Of such deep gratitude, no lapse of time
May blot it from the volume of the past.
If all those tongues were now to grant me aid
Which Polykrates and her sisters once
Made eloquent with their most honed talk,
Yet in the remotest shadow of the truth
I might not reach, saying that holy words,
And how it made her holy aspect glad.
And thus while striving Paradise to paint,
My sacred poem went by bounds advance,
Like one who finds a service in his path.
But he who thinks upon my mighty theme,
And the poor shoulders which the burden bear,
If under it I tremble, will not blame.
This is no cause for a little lagging
Which I now farrow with my handy pen,
Nay for a wretch who would labour thus.

- "Why art thou so encompassed of my face,
 "That the fair garden closes no look from thee
 "Which flowers beneath the radiant light of Christ!
 "Here is the Rose, in which the Word divine
 "Because incarnate, bore the Lilies' bloom,
 "Which with their odours led the way to truth." 75
- So Beatrice spoke, and I, with earnest zeal
 At her mention, turned again to thee
 The overpowering glory with a trembling led.
 Even as mine eyes when shadowed by the gloom
 Have seen at times the madow-buffing flowers, 80
 As a clear ray came breaking through the cloud,
 So troops of glorious splendours I beheld,
 By vivid rays illumined from above,
 Though not the source whence all this splendour came.
 Ah, Power beaute, which so representh these, 85
 Thou hast awarded that I might again
 The rural strength Thy glory so obscured!
 The name of the sweet flower which I invoke
 Each morn and evening, held my soul shrouded
 In close darkness of the deepest night. 90
 And soon as to mine eyes were made distinct
 The nature and the goodness of the star,
 Which bringeth rules above as once below,
 A torch came down from out the massy heavens,
 Forming a radiant circle like a crown, 95
 And the encompassed it and round it rolled.

Whichever melody most sweet in strain
 Here upon earth attracts the enraptured sense,
 Had been a thunder clap to crack the sea,
 Contrasted with the music of this lyre, 100
 By which the sapphire beautiful was crowned,
 Which makes the blue of heaven more sapphire bright.
 " I am singular love ; round thee I roll
 " The joy sublime which from thy womb is breathed,
 " The shattering phase of our supreme desire ; 105
 " And I shall roll, oh, Queen of Heavens ! so long
 " As thou art near thy Son, and shalt enrich
 " The Empyrea by thy presence there."
 Then to its close the rolling concord came
 Of the sweet music, and the other lights 110
 All sounded forth the sound of Mary's name.
 The royal covering over all the spheres
 Of the great world, more glowing and more quick
 Near God's perfections and near God Himself,
 Was in its course high from us removed 115
 So distant, that its aspect was not yet
 To us made visible where I was placed ;
 Therefore my visual soul possessed not power
 To follow in its course the orbicled flame
 Which rose attendant on the word divine ; 120
 And like a child which to its mother's breast
 Extends its arms, after the sweet request,
 Its heart's love breaking out in loving act,

Each of those stainless lights with upward sweep
Lifted its crest, so that the lone supreme
It bore to Mary was made manifest. 120
Then in my presence they continued there,
Singing *Regina celi*, and the song
So sweetly rose, it ravels my delight.
Ah, flowing in the plenty stored within
Those ark most precious, which on earth have been 130
The blessed covers of eternal life !
Here dwell, and in the treasure all are glad
Which was acquired with weeping and with woe
In Babylon, where gold was gladly left. 135
Here triumphs, under the eternal Son
Of God and Mary, in his victory,
And with the blessed saints, both old and new,
He who of such high glory holds the key.

CANTO XXIV.

The blessed spirits derive meeting-derived eternal joy. From amidst them Peter comes forth. He questions Dante respecting Fausto. The Apostle receives that sacrament he craved.

- " Oh, chosen guests to the great supper hall
 " Of the all-blessed Lamb, who feedeth you
 " So that your every appetite is filled,
 " Since by the grace divine this one foretastes
 " Of the excess which from your table falls, 1
 " Before the hand of death his fate prescribes,
 " Be ye considerate to his huge desire,
 " And with some showers bestow him, for ye drink
 " At that fount always whence his thoughts are drawn,"
 Thus Beatrice spoke, and all those spirits glad 2
 Became like spheres which rolled on field poles,
 In brightness burning as a comet doth.
 And as the wheels adjusted are in slots,
 So that in turning he who notes shall see
 The first seem still while swiftly flows the last, 3

So in the whirling dance these spheres revolved
 With movements various, and their glory's wealth
 Was judged by me as these were swift or slow,
 From that one which most beautiful I deemed,
 I saw a fire come forth so wondrous bright, 10
 That in its circle none was brighter left ;
 And around Beatrice three times it turned,
 Shining a mass so divine, the strain
 I cannot in my language now recall ;
 Therefore my pen description overleaps, 20
 Far to depict such depths, not merely words
 But even imaginations colour lacks.
 " Ah, holy sister ! so devout thy prayer,
 " Then by the ardent impulses of thy love
 " Detached us from this resplendent sphere ; " 30
 Then passing in its whirl, the blessed flame
 Towards my lady turned the vocal breath,
 Which to the words I wrote had utterance given
 And she—" Oh, light eternal of the sun
 " So great, to whom our Lord consigned the keys 40
 " Of this most wondrous joy He bore to earth,
 " Search him on points both simple and profound,
 " As it may please thee, bearing on the faith
 " Which gave thee power to walk upon the sea.
 " If he love well, believe, and truly hope, 50
 " Is not from thee concealed, for he thine eyes
 " Behold where all things are as pictures seen,

" But since this realm hath many citizens

" Through the true faith, that this be gloried,

" The right that he be called to speak thereon." 20

Just as the scholar silently prepares

To meet the theme his master may proposed,

To be discussed by him but not defined,

So I with every reason armed myself

Whilst she was speaking, that I might be prompt 25

For such a quarrel, and confusion such.

" As a good Christian be thy reasoning plain ;

" Say, what is Faith ?" on this I raised my head

Towards the light from whence the question came ;

Then turned to Beatrice, and she at once 30

Gave sign by look and eye that I should draw

Full from the inner fountain of my mind.

" Ah, may the grace which wills me to confess,"

Then I began, " before the Church's Prince,

" Make my ideas both precise and clear." 35

And I continued—" As the words of truth,

" Tell, oh, my father, from thy brother's pen,

" Who, dear to thee, with thee gave truth to Rome,

" Faith is the substance of the things we hope,

" It is the evidence of things not seen, 40

" And this to me appears its gold and true."

And then I heard—" Thou hast the sense correct,

" If thou consentest well why it is placed

" First among substances, and after, proof."

- When he had ceased, I said—"The things profound,
 " Which are so deeply open to no here,
 " Are in the world so hidden from the sight,
 " That their existence rests in faith alone,
 " On which is established our sublimest hope,
 " And which by substance therefore is expressed ;
 " And on this faith we are constrained to found
 " Our grounds of reasoning, with no proof beside,
 " Therefore the name of evidence it bears."
- Then thus I heard—"If upon earth the sun
 " Of doctrine were thus clearly understood,
 " There would be found no room for mystery."
- Thus did that breath of glowing love exhale,
 And added—"Noble hath the test been passed
 " By this thy aim is purity and weight,
 " But tell me, as it resonated in thy pains !"
 " Yes," I replied—"so shining and so sound,
 " That of its impress I can never doubt."
- Next from the light profound which glistered there
 This question followed—"This most precious gem,
 " On which all other virtues both its base,
 " Whence comes it?" and I said—"In the rich shower
 " Of the most Holy Spirit, which is shed
 " Over the Testaments, the Old and New,
 " The syllabism is found which hath convinced
 " So subtly, that is the force of it
 " All demonstration fails to me in force."

And then I heard—"The propositions both,

"The old and new, which thy conclusion prove,

"Wherefore dost thou regard them as divine?"

I said—"The proof which bears in me the truth

100

"Rests on the works which follow, and for these

"Nature no iron hoofs, no scuffing strives."

Thus the rejoinder—"Say, who makes thee sure

"That these things come to pass? that which itself

"Hath need of proof is all these evidence."

105

"If without animating the world," I said,

"Turned to the Christian faith, then that alone

"Were minute as grain, all else were naught ;

"For poor and hungry thou dost find thy way

"Into the field to sow the precious seed

110

"Which was the vine, and now, also, the thorn."

Thus having said, the Holy Court sublime

Thundered To Down through the rolling spheres,

In circles of music known alone to heaven.

And the great Prince who came from branch to branch

115

In his countenances had led me on

Till we approached towards the highest boughs,

Again resumed—"The grass which sweetly spreads

"In joy rather than hath thy lips unloosed

"Unto each point as there was need it should,"

120

"So what thy tongue hath uttered I approve ;

"But now 'tis right that thou declare thy creed,

"And whence the evidence for thy belief."

- " Ah Spirit, blessed Father! who dost see
 " What thou dost so believe, thou wastest in 100
 " Within the truth before the younger first,"
 I then began—" Thou wiltst I declare
 " The form of that my ever restless faith,
 " And also wouldst my reason for the same.
 " I therefore answer, I believe One God 105
 " Sole and eternal, who, Himself unmoved,
 " Moveth all heavens by love and by decree ;
 " And for each faith, I do not merely find
 " In metaphysics and in physics proof,
 " But also in the truths culled down on earth 110
 " By Moses, by the Prophets, by the Psalm,
 " The Holy Gospels, and by you who wrote
 " Because the Spirit breathed in you its fire ;
 " In Persons three Eternal I believe,
 " And these One Essence, and so One and True, 115
 " That it permits at once both east and west
 " Of the confusion most distinctly deep
 " Which I now touch on, oftentimes my mind
 " Hath by the Gospel doctrine been expressed.
 " Thus is the principle, and this the spark 120
 " Which, breaking forth in a more vivid flame,
 " Glorious written was like a star in heaven."
 As when the Master pleasant things heaves,
 His servant he embraces, full of joy
 At the good news, when he hath ceased to speak ; 125

So, dropping blessings on me while it sang,

Three times around me rolled, when I had paused,

The Apostolic lamp, at whose command

My mouth gave utterance to such welcome words.

CANTO XXV.

The *Agosto Angel* questions the *Poor* touching the *Palace of Hope*. He asks what it is and whence it comes. Joining the *Agosto of Love* their addresses begin. The *Poor* here, deeply impressed with the *Agosto's* words, and charmed with the brightness of his glorious light, had his sight fully lost.

If e'er it happen that my sacred song,
In shaping which both heaven and earth concurred,
And which hath waited me through many years,
Vanquish the cruelty which shuts me out
From my fair field, where as a hawk I slept
Beset by wolves which fiercely savage it ;
Then with another voice and hair more gray
Poet shall I return, and shall receive
At my baptismal font the laurel crown ;
For there I found the entrance to that faith
Which makes souls known to God, and was the cause
That Peter round my forehead thrice revolved
Towards us then a boundary moved,
One of that blest band from which came forth
The prince of virtue left by Christ on earth.

And filled with joyfulness my lady said—

"Behold, behold, for lo! the chief is here

"Through whom the people in Calicut seek!"

As when a pigeon setteth near its mate,

The two in show of mutual fondness sit,

Circling and murmuring their notes of love,

So saw I one of those most glorious shades

Made by the other welcome, and they gave

Laud to the winds of the high repeat.

But after interchange of greetings glad,

Each seem'd me in silence plac'd itself,

So full of glory that I reed my face.

Then Beatrice with smiling aspect said—

"Oh, soul illustrious, by whose scripture men

"Know the whole wealth of our celestial realm,

"Make hope resound in this radiant heaven;

"Thou knowest thou dost symbol it as oft

"As Christ His glory to the Three revealed."—

"Lift up thy head, fear not, but be assured;

"For that which hither cometh from the earth

"Must here be ripen'd in our rays divine."

Such comfort reach'd me from the second lamp;

And as I raised mine eyes unto the hills

Which first had suck'd them by excess of power

"Since then the grace of our Almighty King

"With thee shouldst see, still being, face to face,

"The Pelicans in His most secret hall;

- " So that the truth beholding of this quest,
 " That Hope which unto earth such comfort brings
 " May through it strength to thee and others give, 20
 " Say, what it is, say how the favour had rest.
 " Within thy mind, and say from whence it came ; "
 Thus did the second Light continuing speak.
 And she my wanted guide who planted my wings
 In loving guidance to each lofty flight, 25
 Ere I had time to answer, thus rejoined—
 " In the Church sufficient no member light
 " More rich in hope, as may be read in Brev,
 " The Sun which unto its radiance o'er us all ;
 " Therefore to this one is recommended to pass 30
 " From Egypt's night unto Jerusalem's day,
 " Before the battle of his life is closed.
 " The other points, which from us need to learn
 " Are asked, but that to earth he may report
 " How much to thee this virtue gives joy, 35
 " To him I leave, for here they will not prove
 " Nor breed vain-glory ; let him answer give,
 " And may the grace of God attend him still."
 As pupil to his master answer makes
 Promptly and willingly in what he knows, 40
 So that his merits may be brought to light ;
 " Hope is a certain waiting for," I said,
 " Of future glory, which emanates both
 " In grace divine and antecedent works

- " From many stem to me this knowledge came , 75
 " But he who first instilled it in my heart
 " Was the great Psalmist of the Sovereign King
 " " Let them have hope in Them who know Thy name,"
 " In his most lofty song of praise he sings ;
 " And who knows not His name with such like name ! 79
 " Thus hast believed me with such pleasant dew
 " Of those Eperle trees, that I am filled,
 " And can some portion upon others shed."
 Whilst thus I spoke, within the living heart
 Of that great Seer flickered a vivid beam, 80
 Sudden and frequent, like the lightning's flash
 From thee was breathed—" The road with which I have
 " Towards that virtue which hath followed me
 " Even to the palm and the last battle field,
 " With me most sure to speak, for thy delight 85
 " It is, and sweet to me, that thou shouldst tell
 " What is the promise Hope to thee has given."
 Then I—" The Scriptures, Old as well as New,
 " Express the mark, and thou to me declare,
 " The mark whom God is pleased to make His friends. 90
 " I wish with, that each one shall be clothed
 " In his own country with a double robe,
 " And his own country in that blessed life
 " And there thy brother, more distant and dear,
 " Where the white raiment of the saints he wears, 95
 " The revelation manifests to us."

And as the words were closing, then at once
 Spent in a high note as was heard,
 To which gave answer all those dancing choirs ;
 Among them afterwards a light so flushed,
 That if in Cancer such a crystal shone,
 Summer would count a month of nightless day,
 And as she then, gone and join the dance,
 The happy maiden, only to do grace
 To the new bride, and not from mine desire,
 So did I see the glowing splendour come
 Towards the two who in their circles whirled,
 Swift as because their ever ardent love.
 It joined them, chaunting the same words and song,
 And then my lady fixed on them her look,
 And like a bride was motionless and still.
 " Lo, this is he who leant upon the breast
 " Of Christ our Peasant, and unto whom
 " At the cross foot the charge divine was given."
 Thus spoke my lady, yet no more had power
 To change the fixed attention of her eye
 After her words were spoken then before
 Like him who closely scans and strives with pain
 To catch some portion of the sun's eclipse,
 And who is looking east by looking right,
 So was my case at this last glowing scene,
 Until I heard—" Why not thou blinded thus
 " At seeing that which here hath no shade !

¹⁰ In earth, and earth our body is, and there

²² [Shall] with the others not all time complete

^a The appointed number of God's holy deities.

* To show \mathcal{H}_1 is closed, we show that the limit of any convergent sequence in \mathcal{H}_1 is in \mathcal{H}_1 .

"Are only those two lights not seen on both."

"And in your world that knowledge shall there have."

The glowing circles at their work were still.

And with it comes the direct payment

It may contribute to the trial benefit.

Just then, he takes notice of your show.

Before the case was played into the world.

All at the pilot's whistle are at rest.

And, with what trouble was my heart disturbed

As I turned round to look on Bastien,

And that was power in my hand, though I was

Chlorine to benefit and in the human world.

CANTO XXVI

The Apostle John resumes the first teaching the holy vision of charity. The Count of Mariva smiles and gladly consents. The Poeta's sight is restored. He thus perceives the light of the first Poeta divine, who shines as the most distant luminous orb in vision.

Wicket by my dazzled vision thus perplexed,

Far from the blinding flame the dazzling came

An utterance breathed which my attention fixed,

Saying—"Till thou movement the senses

"Of sight so injured in beholding me,

"Thy good by currents to make up the loss.

"Begin, then, and deduce where doth thy soul

"Point its desires, and be assured of this,

"Thy sight is only hindered, not destroyed ;

"For she who through this most transcendent realm

"Conduces thee, hath that virtue in her look

"Which Aristotle in his heart possessed."

I said—"As it shall please her, soon or late

"May looking teach mine eyes, which were the doors

"Through which she came with fire that ever burns

8

10

12

"The Good Supreme, which makes this Court content,

"The Alpha is and Omega in all

"Love toucheth me, as simple or profound."

That self same voice that shamed away the fear

Which had so suddenly my wits confused,

Still filled my heart with earnest wish to speak,

And said—"To certain through a finer door

"There must be egress, and 'tis fit that my

"Who did these arrows point to such an aim."

"By reason's philosophy," I replied,

"And by authority from heaven derived,

"Such love must needs be gotten on my soul,

"For the true good once apprehended well

"Thus love enthralls, and so much the more

"As in itself the goodness is supreme.

"Hence to the Essence so pre-eminent

"That every good which out of it exists

"Is nothing but a ray of its own light,

"More than to any other merit due

"Of all be moved, who, having, know the truth

"On which the argument above is based

"Such truth to my intelligence was shown

"By him who proved to me the primal love

"Of every essence having endless life.

"Clear too it flowed from the Lord of truth,

"Who said to Moses, speaking of Himself,

"Before thee will I make my goodness pass."

- "Clear, too, thou mad'st it in those opening tort
 "Of the High Message, which proclaims on earth
 "Heaven's secret with revelation unexpressed." 45
- And then I heard—"Let thine intelligence
 "And all authority conform'd to it
 "Thy chief and crowning love keep for thy God.
 "But further say, if thou feel other cords
 "Draw thee towards Him, so that I may hear 50
 "How many notions make thy love express."
- The holy purpose of Christ's eagle here
 Was not obscure, for I at once perceiv'd
 To what my faith's profession he would lead.
 Wherefore I recommenced—"These reasons all 55
 "Which have the power to turn the heart to God,
 "Together work to draw my soul to Him ;
 "The world's existence, my own safety ;
 "The death that He sustained that I might live,
 "And that which I and all believers hope, 60
 "With the full knowledge spoken of but now,
 "Have drawn me from the sea of sinful love,
 "And placed me on the shore of love divine.
 "The leaves which the whole garden beautify
 "Of the eternal Gardener, in so far 65
 "I love as He hath willed in them all good."
- As soon as I had ceased, a most sweet song
 Resounded through the heavens, and with the apt
 Myself "Holy, holy, holy," said

And as a parting light the chamber leaves
 Through the frost-mist which returneth back,
 As the gleam strikes the eye from east to west,
 And what he sees the wakened man avails,
 All radiance in the sudden change,
 Until his judgment bringeth to him aid ;
 So every obscurity of my eyes
 Was chased by Beatrice with the beams of hers,
 Which threw their light more than a thousand miles ;
 Wherefore I saw more clearly than before,
 And almost lost in wonder I inquired
 Whose was the fourth light in our presence there.
 My lady answering, said—" Within those rays
 " With joy behold his Maker the first soul
 " Which the great Power creative ever formed,"
 He bends the fringe of the topmost mantle
 When the mist passes, and again reveals
 By the undwelling form which lifts it up,
 So was it with myself while she discoursed,
 Lost in my wonder ; but my courage came
 In the desire with which I learned to speak,
 And I began—" Oh, apple, which alone
 " In ripeness was produced, Father ! to whom
 " Each bride was daughter both in blood and law,
 " With all humility I then beseech
 " That thou wouldst speak to me, thou sweet my wife,
 " And, that I sooner hear, I tell it not,"

At times come round its scarring scars

So that its inner refinement it shows

By the exteriority of its envelope.

In a like manner the primordial soul

100

Made me see clearly through its outer veil

How great its pleasure was to give me joy

Then breathing said—" Though not by thee expressed,

" I yet more palpably discern thy wish.

" Than thou the surest thing thou knowest of,

105

" For it is mirrored in the face of Him

" Who in Himself reflecteth other things,

" Whilst nothing in itself reflecteth Him.

" Then wouldst thou learn how long it is since God

" Placed me within the earthly Paradise,

110

" Where Beatrice plac'd thee for thy flight sublime,

" How long its beauty was mine eyes' delight,

" And the true cause of the wrath divine,

" The tongue I spoke, the language which I formed.

" Now, oh, my son, the tasting of the fruit

115

" Not of itself so great an evil caused,

" But solely the transgressions of committed.

" These whence thy lady Virgil moved to help,

" For years four thousand, hundreds three and two,

" I longed to join this conspire of the lost.

120

" And him I saw to all the lights return

" Which stud his course, nine hundred thirty years,

" While to the flesh I sojourn'd upon earth.

- " The language which I spoke was wholly lost,
 " Ere to the work which no completion had. 125
 " The men of Xanood turned their thoughts and hands.
 " For never work from human reason spring
 " To human man's desires, subject to change
 " From astral influence, long duration know.
 " That man should speak is simply nature's act, 130
 " But to speak thus or thus, that nature leaves
 " Man to do that as to himself may please.
 " Ere to the pains internal I went down,
 " *Xi* was the name of Him the good supreme,
 " Whence all the gladness which surrounds me comes, 135
 " Now *Xi* called ; each change needs must be,
 " For mortal customs vary like the leaves
 " Upon the boughs, some come whilst others go.
 " Upon the mount most high above the surge
 " I was, both innocent and justice-stained, 140
 " From the first hour to that which next succeeds
 " To the sixth hour, as the sun's quadrant shifts."

CANTO XXVII

*Adam's Patriarchal words of terrible reprobation against the Fathers of the Church.
Dante recalls him to the Future World. Here all that is distinctive of time
and place is lost. The scenes and quality of this sphere are described.*

To Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rose
The song of glory from all Paradise,
So sweet the music, I was drunk with joy,
That which I saw to me seemed like the smile
Of the whole universe, for both by sight
And by the hearing did my transport come.
Oh joy, oh happiness ineffable !
Oh life complete, in love and holy peace !
Oh wealth secure without device or dread !
Before mine eyes the four transcendent lamps
Moved not, and that one which had first appeared
Began to flash with a more vivid glow ;
And such in its appearance it became
As Jove would have become, if he and Mars
Had, being birds, their plumage interchanged.

That Providence which here divides to all

Their charge and office, to the hallowed choir

Had silence now on every side imposed,

When this I heard—"If I more halcyon share,

"Be not surprised for even whilst yet I speak,

"These all in colour shall more glorious be.

"He who upon the earth my place usurps,

"My place! my place! which is an empty place

"In the great presence of the Son of God,

"Each of my secretary made a sack

"Of blood, and garbage, where the wicked one,

"Who fell from hence, finds his content below."

Rail with the sea, which, from the flying sun,

Tarteth the clouds at morning or at eve,

I now saw heaven's expanse all dappled o'er ;

And like a wicket rider who remains

Sure of himself, and, when another falls,

Even at the very losing, timid grows,

So in her aspect Beatrice was changed ,

And so in heaven must the culprit have been,

When suffered on the cross the Power Supreme.

He after this continued his discourse

And in a voice re-echoed in its tones,

Not gentler was the charge his audience shewed ;

"The spaces of Christ was tortured not with blood

"Of Lemus, or of Citius, or my own,

"For the mere purpose of acquiring gold ;

- " But for the gaining of this blessed life,
 " Calistus, Scortus, Pius, Urban shed
 " Their blood with weeping and with mighty woe. 12
- " The purpose was not ours, that on the right
 " Of our successors seated should be put
 " Of Christ's own people, part upon the left ;
- " Nor that the keys committed to my hands
 " Should a more human's boundary become, 13
- " To bear in combat against men baptised ;
 " Nor that my rage should be made a tool
 " For lying pretences bought and sold,
 " Raising my frequent blots of wrath and shame.
- " Clothed in the shepherd's robe capacious wolves 14
- " Are seen from hence o'er all the pastures spread,
 " Ah, God the Avenger, wherever sleepest Thou !
- " Men of Colours and Gascons are prepared
 " To quaff our blood ; ah, thou beginning good,
 " To what vile end it is thy lot to come ! 15
- " But that high Providence, which in Salvo brought
 " Safety to Rome, the glory of the world,
 " Will soon bring honour, as my soul believes,
- " And thou, my son, who hardened by the flesh
 " Must still return to earth, speak freely out, 16
- " And what I do not hide myself not thou."

As the earth's atmosphere drops down in showers
 Its gold vapours, when the sun and beam
 Of the celestial host each other touch,

So I beheld on high the ether flushed
 With glory shower throughout vapours round,
 Which had with us made vapours here below.
 I followed with mine eyes their shadowy forms,
 Until so wide the space between us grew
 As to set limits to my visual power,
 On which my lady, seeing me released
 From upward observation, said—"Look down,
 "Behold how great a circuit thou hast made!"
 Since I had downwards looked the former time,
 I saw that I had moved through the whole air,
 Which the first infinite space from us to went;
 So beyond Gades there I saw the coast
 Ulysses tempted, here more near, the shore
 On which Europa was so sweet a load
 And more had I discovered of the site
 Of this poor globe, had not the sun advanced
 Onward beneath my feet one sign and more.
 My rapt soul, which always took delight
 In my dear lady, more than ever sought
 To turn again to her my yearning eyes;
 And if by nature or by art we formed
 Allurements for the eye to tempt the mind
 In mortal bodies, or in pictured shapes,
 All heaped together would as nothing be
 To that divinest joy which on me shined
 When round I turned towards her smiling face,

And then the force imparted by her look

Tore me away from Leda's lovely nest,

And thrust me into heaven's most rapid sphere.

Its various parts most vivid, most sublime,

185

Are so swift, I have no power to tell

The place which Justice for entrance chose.

But she, who saw the point of my desire,

Seeking began, and with such gladness fraught,

That in her face the joy of God appeared,

186

"The nature of the movement which returns

"The wings still, and moves all around,

"As from its starting place, beginseth here

"And in this house there is no other place

"Then the eternal mind, where burns the love

187

"Which sets it, and the influence it sheds

"It is surrounded with all love and light.

"As it surrounds the others, and its bounds

"He who analyses it alone can know

"In other movements it no measure hath,

188

"But they by it are measured, just as ten

"Is by the five its half, the two its fifth.

"And how it is that in this mighty vase

"Time hath its roots, whilst others show its leaves,

"May now by thee be clearly understood,

189

"Capidity! oh thou who plungest men

"Deep in thy mazes, so that none has strength

"To lift his eyes to pierce thy nature through!

- " Of good intentions mortals show the flower ;
 " But men contained long transform the fruit 120
 " And the meek plow becomes the shapeless plume.
 " Now faith and innocence are only found
 " In little infants, since they both take flight
 " Before the clouds are covered with the down.
 " Such, such a one, still hoping, keeps the fete, 125
 " Who afterwards, with loosened tongue, devours
 " At every season any kind of food.
 " And such a one, still hoping, knows and knows
 " The mother's voice, who, with the power of speech,
 " In later days her heated lungs to use. 130
 " The time that human nature, the fair child
 " Of day, who belongs the morn and leaves the night,
 " First in its aspect white, becometh black.
 " Then, that thou mayest not cease of wonder here,
 " Know that on earth there is no governing hand ; 135
 " Hence have mankind so wandered from the way.
 " But before January from winter past,
 " Through time's small minutes upon earth ignored,
 " These spheres of heaven shall be so loudly moved,
 " That the great destiny, looked for now so long, 140
 " Shall turn the vessel's goos where point the prow,
 " So that the fleet shall steer its course right ;
 " And the true fruit shall follow on the flower."

CANTO XXVIII

Beats before a most glorious and shining Point of light. This is the Golden Beacon. Descriptions of the three Phantasies of angels and their forms which dwellers around the highest Point of the pedestal. Harp of Power and Imagination.

When with the light of truth the present life
Of wretched mortals was by her laid bare
Who had with joy unperceived my mind ;
As one, behind whose back a torch is lit,
Saw in a mirror the extending flame,
Ere yet in sight or thought the torch itself,
And none about to be saved the glare
Telleth the truth, and keds that it agrees
With this, as doth the music with the words,
So to my own consciousness was revealed
What I had done, looking in her sweet eyes
Where love had made the net which held me bound,
And as I turned, and when mine eyes were struck
By what appears in the celestial book,
Each fibre the mighty word is closely wound,

I saw one Point which radiated light
 So vividly, the eye on which it burned
 Was closed perhaps against its piercing power ;
 And even the smallest star seen from the earth
 Beside it paled, as in the sky is paled
 Star with its star, had seemed as sun & moon.
 Perhaps as near as seems the halo's ring
 Around the light which gives the coloring tints,
 When vapours bearing it most densely roll,
 In distance radiated a ring of fire
 So swiftly round the Point, that it surpassed
 The quickest sphere of the great universe ;
 And this was circled by another ring,
 This by a third, the third was by a fourth,
 This by a fifth, and by a sixth the fifth ,
 Next came the seventh circle as enlarged
 In its expanse that Juno's messengers
 Could not have spanned its full circumference ;
 And so the eighth, and ninth, and each of these
 More slowly moved according to its place
 Was at a distance greater from the One ;
 And that ring glowed with the most lived flame
 Which nearest was to the pure central spark,
 Reeking methinks most in its essence like,
 Then spoke my lady who had seen no hold
 In curious wonder—" On that single Point
 " Hang the whole universe and Nature's will.

10

20

30

40

50

- "Behold the earth meet with its counterpart,
 " And know that this, the movement is so swift
 " From the indulgent love which spurs it on." 20
 And then I said—"Were the whole world disposed
 " In the same order in those wheels perceived,
 " What then hast and had been for me enough ;
 " But, lo, we see in the material world
 " The rolling spheres so much the more divine, 30
 " As from the centre they are more remote.
 " Wherefore to place a term to my desire
 " In this most wondrous and angelic race,
 " Which both for knots love and light alone,
 " I still would know why in one way alone 40
 " The copy and exemplar fail to go ;
 " Because in vain are all my thoughts thrown."—
 " If to untie each knot thy fingers fail
 " In their sufficiency, be not surprised ;
 " It is no fault because it is not tried," 50
 Then spake my lady, and continuing said—
 " Grasp what I tell thee wouldst thou be content,
 " And as it sharpens well thy reasoning power,
 " The heavens material are, or large or small,
 " Proportioned to the virtue less or more 60
 " Which is diffused throughout their every part.
 " More great the goodness, so the bliss more great ;
 " A greater body holds a greater bliss
 " If all the parts be equally complete

^a "I learned that when, which comes with age."

* The whole group estimate, μ_{group} , corresponds

• With that which I wish most and knoweth most

¹⁰ And thus, if there, the thought is considered that

¹⁰ That is, the carrier wave has lower power.

* Of all these countries, only Canada is a G7 member.

• These should be held as non-negotiables

²⁴ "Things great to wonder, and things small to lose."

²² The strategy however, needs no intelligence."

As in normal and unknown route

The world headquarters, where Bruce Bloom

In the direction of his extended career,

Deconvolve the cross-correlation response of

Reverend and excellent, and the sky is clear

What the article "boundary of the mirror" does

Revised manuscript accepted for publication

With low dollar interest rates, let me double.

And like a star in heaven, the truth was seen.

And when her words had slithered round,

Erweitern Sie das Diagramm um die folgenden Aufgaben:

In other manner than those herein stated.

Each spot on a spider is matted in its turn.

So many were they, that they neighbored upon

Then thousands died in the disaster's aftermath.

Jason didn't know I loved Thomas as much as you.

Towards the Good Point which is the DM there

Halla and shall always, where their always were.

- And she, who saw my hasting thoughts,
 Then said—"The first two orders have disclosed
 " The Cherubim and Seraphim to thee
 " Then with thy fellow the attending three 100
 " To have His likeness, far as they have power,
 " And power they have, just as their sight endures.
 " These other sources which around them move,
 " They are named Thrones of God's own Son divine,
 " Since the first triad hierarchy they closed. 105
 " And thus thou oughtest to know: all have delight
 " Just as their vision pierces to the depths
 " Of Truth, where all intelligences rest
 " From whence thou mightest perceive, Beatitude
 " Both its foundation in the act of sight, 110
 " Not in the loving act, which after comes;
 " And of the sight the measure is good works,
 " Which spring from grace and from concurrent will;
 " Thus step by step the sacred move proceeds.
 " The other trine which thus angels give 115
 " In this the place of everlasting spring,
 " Which the material Sun droppeth not,
 " Hosianna swirls with perpetual shout
 " Of thousandfold melody, which in the three
 " Orders of gladdest sounds, which make the trine 120
 " And in this hierarchy are the three gods;
 " First there are Dominations, Virtues next,
 " And next the order third of Powers succeeds.

- " Then in the choral rings penitents,
" Archangels, Principities revolve ; 160
" Angels about make joyous in the host.
" These orders upwards all intensely gaze,
" And so prevail below, that towards God
" All are attracted, whilst they all attract
" And with such mighty language Deity sought 170
" To contemplate those Orders, that he sawed,
" And, like myself, described them in detail.
" But Gregory thought not afterwards as he ;
" Whence and as soon as in the heavens his eyes
" Were opened, he at his own voice waked 180
" And if so great a truth to mortal sight
" Was given on earth, let it no marvel seem,
" For he, who saw it here, showed it to him
" With many other truths those circles point."

CANTO XXIX.

Statues presenting the deaths of Dante proceed to describe the vision of God in the universe, this points out the weakness and folly of such a philosophy. With profound indignation she dwells on the impotence of Penelope, who cannot depend on self-indulgence solely for the love of god.

When the two children of Latona rest
In Ariel's and in Latona's covering eyes,
And of the same horizon make a scene,
What time the north both in balance holds,
Till one and other from the circle shed,
Change hemisphere and break the equinox,
So long, with face all beautiful with smiles,
Was Beatrice silent, her unshaking gaze
Fixed on that point which had no conquered man.
Then she began—"I know and do not ask
"What thou wouldst hear, for I have seen it there
"Where every Uli every Queneo points,
"Not to become more blessed in Himself
" (Which cannot be), but that His glorious beam
" In others shining might Salvato say,

- " In His eternity, before all time
 " And all man's comprehension, as He willed,
 " The eternal Love was in the angels shown.
 " Nor before this did He inactive rest,
 " For there was neither after nor before 20
 " Until the Spirit on the waters moved
 " Matter and Form conjoined, and virgin-pure,
 " Sprung from the act which no shortcoming knew,
 " As from a three-stringed bow three arrows fly,
 " And as in crystal, amber, or in glass, 25
 " The ray so glances, time no moment both
 " Between its advent and the full display ;
 " So from the Lord did the trifern effect
 " Come forth at once in essence all complete,
 " Without distinction at its genesis. 30
 " Then, too, in order absolute were fixed
 " Three substances, and in the universe
 " They highest were in which pure action reigned.
 " Pure matter holds creation's lowest place ;
 " In the mid region bonds as firm unite 35
 " Matter with action, they are never loosed
 " To you hath Jerome of the angels told,
 " How their creation had been ages long
 " Before the universe hither was formed ;
 " But this my truth is read in many texts 40
 " Of those who by the Holy Spirit wrote,
 " And thou shalt see it if thou studiest well ;

- " And even reason can perceive in part,
 " For it would not consent that moving power
 " Should rest so long without its work to do. 41
- " Now knowest thou where created, when and how,
 " These holy creatures were, so that are quenched
 " Already these hot sparks of thy desire.
- " In wondering thou hadst not to twenty reached,
 " One part of that angelic host had brought 42
 " Disturbance to your elemental world.
- " The rest remained, and that event work began,
 " Which thou perceivest, and their joy is such,
 " That they will ever in those circles roll.
- " The springhead of the fall was in the pride 43
 " Accused of him who was by thee beheld.
 " Pressed by the world's whole gravitating weight.
- " Humble were those whom thou now seest here
 " In gratitude to goodness infinite,
 " Which made them fit for such perception high. 44
- " And hence their sense of seeing was enlarged
 " By grace enlightening, and their own desires,
 " Resolved and perfect therefore in their will.
- " I would not thou shouldst doubt, but be convinced
 " That there is much in receiving grace, 45
 " In measure as love opens to its flow.
- " Now round this consistory of the blest
 " Thou mayest, if thou hast rightly stored my words,
 " And without other aid, to fulsome gaze

- " But since 'tis taught on earth, and in your schools, 70
 " That the angels essence is of kind
 " To understand, remember, and denote,
 " Further I speak, that clearly thou mayest see
 " The truth which men unsettle in the world,
 " Themselves deceiving by such teaching strange, 75
 " Those substances having with gladness once
 " Beheld the face of God, turned not their eyes
 " Away from Him, from whom is nothing hid,
 " Therefore their vision is by objects new
 " At no time troubled, therefore hath not need, 80
 " Ideas to recall which now are past.
 " This being so, men, sleeping not, yet dream,
 " Some holding that they teach the truth, some not,
 " But with the latter taste the greater shame.
 " You men; not there below by one true path 85
 " Philosophising, so much are you led
 " By fond display and its engrossing thought.
 " Yet, notwithstanding, this is viewed above
 " With less displeasure than when Holy Writ
 " Is thrust aside, or with false glosses read, 90
 " You think not how much blood it cost on earth
 " To sow the seed, nor of the joy in heaven
 " For him who hardly maketh it his law.
 " Each one is laboring to appear profound
 " And none his own conceits; these are the texts 95
 " The professors handle, not the Gospel truths,

- " One says the moon rolled backward in her path
 " At the Land's passion, and so interposed,
 " That the sun's light reached not the darkened earth ;
 " Another, that the very light was hid 100
 " By its own act, so that the same eclipse
 " By Spaniard, Indian or by Jew was seen,
 " One single year heard none this fables sound
 " From Platanus pulpit than the eye may note
 " Lapl and Brach crowding in her streets ; 105
 " So that the flocks which little knowledge have,
 " Turn from the pastures pastured by the wind,
 " And not to see their loss is no excuse.
 " Christ to His first assembly did not say,
 " Go forth and preach unto heathings unto men, 110
 " But gave the apostles the foundation true ;
 " And with such power this sounded from their lips,
 " That in their numbers to extend the faith,
 " Alone the Gospel was both shield and spear
 " But now with poets and with buffooneries 115
 " The preacher preaches, and if heaves laugh,
 " Pleased in his vanity , 'tis all he seeks '
 " But in the hood a bird hath made his nest,
 " Which could the vulgar see, they would perceive
 " The fine indulgence on which they lean ; 120
 " Through these hath folly so increased on earth,
 " That without proof by any witness given,
 " Men would to any promise blindly trust.

- " With them St. Antony makes fit his mate,
 " And things besides more evil than his crime, 120
 " Paying with money which no mint had coined.
 " But leaving them depressed so far, 'tis good
 " That now we turn towards the road direct,
 " So that thy path be short as in the fable.
 " These angel nations rise from rank to rank 125
 " So vast in number, that no tongue can tell,
 " Nor man's conception to the total reach,
 " And if thou wouldest what Daniel hath revealed,
 " There shalt thou find the sum determinate
 " Beneath the thousand of his thousands led. 130
 " The Primal Light which shines on them all,
 " In rays as various as by them received,
 " As these are angel glories which it joins.
 " Wherefore because the affliction of the soul
 " Follows the act of sight, the joy of love 135
 " Is warm and fervent variously in these.
 " Behold then now how great the height and breadth
 " Of the Eternal Power —dispersed throughout
 " Unanchored mirrors in His image made,
 " The more He still remains, one as before." 140

CANTO XXX.

Destree sees the beauty of Destree become in glory and himself all the genius of description. He is now in the Empyrean. He perceives a star from which rise and fall which again fall again in splendour resembling gems. The first is white because more distant. He beholds the angels and Poets at the foot of a sacred tree.

Distant, from us, perhaps six thousand miles
 The dark hour glows, and now the earth inclines
 Its shadow almost to the horizon's plane,
 When the mid vault of heaven high overhead
 Begins to show such signs, that many stars
 Come to be seen from these our earthly depths ;
 And as the brilliant hundred of the sun
 Moves in advance, the eyes of heaven are closed
 Star after star even to its brightest orb ;
 Thus the angelic choir which evermore
 Flay round the Point which overpowered my sight
 And seemed contained by that which it contains,
 By small degrees from vision passed away,
 Wherefore I turned mine eyes to Destree,
 Now seeing nothing and by love constrained.

8

10

12

If all that has been said of her till now
 Were here summed up into one term of praise,
 It would be double help for present need.
 The beauty which I saw so far surpassed
 Not merely man's conception, that I think
 Its Maker only could its fulness taste
 Here in my narrative I own define,
 So great that never passage of her throne
 Gains or tragic Poet more exhibited;
 For as the sun makes void the unshelved night,
 So the remembrance of her gentle smile
 Did purgify the action of my mind.
 From the first day on which her face I saw
 In mortal life unto the present time
 The progress of my song was never checked;
 But I must now desert, and in my verse
 Further of her high beauty cease to sing,
 Like every artist at the crowning touch.
 Thus beautiful, as to a latter note
 I left her then my trump can sound which now
 Precede its arduous labour to conclude,
 With voice and action of an earnest guide
 She recommenced—"Let us have now emerged
 " From the prime sphere to heaven which is pure light,
 " Light intellectual and full of love,
 " Love of true good, of very gladness full,
 " Gladness superior to all other joy."

" Here dwell those are the hosts of Paradise,

" Both orders, and the one in fashion such

" As thou shalt see it at the last season."

40

As sudden lightning scattering darkness

The vision shewn, as so to deprive

The eye of power to see the plainest things ;

So did the living light around me dash,

Leaving me swathed in such a covering veil

45

Of its own brightness, nothing else I saw.

" The Love which gives this Paradise its peace.

" Grants always with such welcome like clock,

" To make the taper suited to its flame."

No sooner had my mind received the name

50

Of these short words than I at once perceived

The virtue in me mightily increased ;

And with fresh power of sight I was supplied,

So that no refinement, however pure,

Could have brought need of covering to mine eyes.

55

I saw a light which like a river flowed,

Flushing with waves of glory, both its banks

Rich with the wondrous fertility of spring

Forth from the river issued living sparks,

And these on every side dropped on the stream,

60

Like unto rubies which are set in gold.

Then as if drunk with odours, these again

Pinaged in the body of the glorious stream,

And as one entered, came another forth.

- " The deep desire which drove thus now, and stirs 70
 " Thy soul to understand thine eye's report
 " Thence no more in measure of its depth.
 " But of this water thou hast need to drink,
 " Before the thirst so great is that he quenched ;"
 Thus spoke to me she of mine eyes the sun ; 75
 Adding—" The river and the grass which pass
 " In it and out, the ending of the furrow
 " Fastly prodigues their reality ;
 " For these things are not of themselves obscure,
 " But in thyself the imperfection lies, 80
 " For yet thy vision has not soared so high."
 Never did child with more impetuous haste
 Turn to its mother's milk, if reared from sleep
 Somewhat more tardily than is its wont,
 Then did myself, to make mine eyes become 85
 Still better mirrors, bend towards the wave
 Which flows to enlarge the vision of the real
 And soon as drunk of it the very edge
 Of mine eyes' lids, at once is not it reared
 No more that it had length, but now was round. 90
 Then as the actors in a masquerade
 Look other than they were when they are stripped
 Of the false features under which they hid ;
 So I perceived to greater gladness changed
 The frowns and sparks : and lo, I then behold 95
 Made manifest the two great Courts of Heaven

Oh, God's great splendour, I through which behold
The mighty triumph of the realm of truth,
How I behold! Thus give me power to tell!
Above is light which maketh to be seen,
The All-Creator by that creature's seen
Who finds his peace close in seeing Him,
And it enlargeth in the circle's form
So mightily, that its circumference
Would be too large a guide for the sun.
So much as seen of it was as one my
Gilding the summit of the pruned sphere,
Which thence derives its life and active power
And as a bill in water at its foot
Looks as it were to see itself bedecked,
When it is rich in verdure and in flower,
So leaning o'er the Light and all around
I sat on seats unnumbered, looking down,
All of mankind from earth to heaven returned
And if the lowest rank have in itself
A light so radiant, ah, how glorious then
The ether leaves of the celestial Rose!
My vision in the fulgour and the light
Was not confounded, but enhanced the whole,
Both the amount and nature of the joy
Nearness and distance add not there nor take,
For where God without medium agents works,
The law of nature hath no longer place

- In the gold centre of the storied Rose,
Which spreads, by wings dim, breathing forth
Odours of praise to the ever turned ear,
Like unto me who silent yet would speak
Did Beatrice draw me, and she said—"Observe
" How vast the assembly of the soft state robes !
" Behold our city and how large its bounds !
" Behold as filled are those our countless seats
" That few new occupants are needed now !
" On that great throne on which thine eyes are fixed
" With wonder at the crown show it placed,
" Ere at those holy legends thou shalt say,
" The soul shall set, as earth to be august,
" Of the great Henry, who will come to bring
" Order to Italy ere it be prepared.
" The blind captivity which bewitches men
" Shall make their actions like the little child's,
" Whisk, hanger-dying, drives its name away.
" Then in the sacred forms shall proceed
" One who by open as by secret ways
" Shall not go with him to his royal path
" But after thus God shall not brook him long
" In his high office, for he shall be plucked
" Where Elmo Magnus howls for his deserts,
" And lower still of Magnus shall be thrust."

CANTO XXXI.

Description of the two Orders of Angels. How marvels of imagination and poetry dwell, in the reader's mind towards the latter, but is corrected by fact. The latter attracts attention towards the former. Angels surrounded by thousands of angels and cherubim and glories.

Like a white rose, then, both in hue and form
Was shown to me the army of the saints,
Whom Christ had made His own with His own blood ;
The other host which in their sight beheld
And sang His glory who their love inspires,
And that great goodness whence their glory comes,
As in the summer flowers a swarm of bees
One moment plunges themselves, the next return
To where their labour is with honey crowned,
In the great flower descended, which is decked
With leaves unsundered, no ascending thence
To where their Love hath His eternal home.
Their faces all were in the living flame,
Their wings were golden, and all else so white,
There is no snow with whiteness so unstained.

While in the flower they dipped, from rank to rank
They scattered round the fervour and the passion
Which they acquired fanning their wings in heaven.
Near though between the Flower and Throne alone
There was so great a multitude on wing,
Did this obstruct the splendour or the vision,
Because the light divine so penetrates
The world is measure of receptive power,
That nothing can be obstacle or hindrance.
This realm so powerful, so with gladness filled,
Rich in the mists of Scripture Old and New,
Turned to one point alone desire and eye.
Oh, Transcend Light, which in a single star
Thou sparkling, makes their vision so content,
Look on the storms which sweep us below !
If the Barbarians coming from the land
Which is by Hades covered every day,
As near her not believed she ever will,
Beholding Rome, and her imported towers
Were dumb with wonder, when the Latins
In splendour all the works of man surpassed ;
I who had come from human to divine,
Who to eternity from time had come,
From Florence to a people just and wise,
Ah, with what stupor must I needs be filled !
Truly between the stupor and the joy
It was delight to hear not, and be mute.

- And as a weary Pilgrim soon revives,
Looking upon the temple of his rose,
And hopes to tell its glories to his friends,
40 So in the living light, and glowing white,
I raised mine eyes to none from rank to rank,
Now up, now down, now in the circle round
Faces I saw which moved the heart to love,
Glorious in holy light, and their own smiles,
45 And movements rich in all that growth gives grace.
The figure general of Paradise
Already was conceived in my survey,
But yet no single point mine eye had stayed ;
And with increase of eagerness I turned
50 Towards my lady to inquire of things
Which uncered doubts to agitate my mind.
I looked for one, another made reply,
Districe I thought to see, I saw instead
An aged man, clothed as the glorious saints,
55 His eyes were glowing, and his cheeks rufined
With joy benign, and as it might become
A tender father so his gestures were.
" Where then is she ? " I hastily exclaimed,
And he replied ;—" Thy longings be content,
60 " Districe hath started me from my home of rest ;
" And thou shalt see her if thou upward look
" In the third circle from the highest rank,
" Upon the throne her merits made elect."

- I answered not, but lifted up mine eyes,
 And I beheld her as she wore a crown
 Reflecting from itself the eternal rays,
 From that high space where thunders loudest roll,
 No eye of mortal man was distant more
 How far deep in the great ocean plunged,
 Than was from Beatrice the stretch of mine ;
 But this was no obstruction, for her form
 Came down to me through medium undisturbed.
 " Oh Thou whoakest evergreen my hope,
 " Lady, who for my safety didst not scorn
 " To leave thy traces in the ruder of hell ;
 " Of things so many which mine eyes have seen,
 " To thy beneficence and power I owe
 " The grace and time the glory to behold,
 " I was in slavery ; thou hast made me free,
 " By every method and by all the means
 " In which the virtue lay to make me so.
 " Preserve as me thy rich magnificence,
 " So that the soul, thou hast restored to health,
 " May then content when from the body loosed."
 Each was my prayer ; and she, although she seemed
 So distant far, looked upon me and smiled,
 Then to the Point Eternal turned away
 The aged saint then spoke—" That is the end
 " Of thy great journey thou must surely reach,
 " For which I have been sent by prayer and love,

- "Over this garden let their eyes take flight,
 "For in beholding it shall they acquire
 "More force to penetrate the my divine ;
 "And she, the Queen of Heaven, for whom I burn 100
 "With such deep love, shall do us every grace,
 "Because her faithful Bernard I am called."
 Like him who haply from Geneva comes
 To see our Veronica, and in awe
 Of its great glory cannot gaze enough, 105
 And whilst he gaze thinketh to himself,
 Christ Jesus, oh my Lord, are God and true,
 Was then thy holy countenance like this ?
 So was I, ending in its living light
 The love of him who on this earthly stage 110
 Tasted in contemplation heavenly peace.
 "This joy celestial, oh, thou child of grace,"
 He then began, "by thee shall not be known,
 "Long as thou eyes rest in this lower sphere ;
 "But lift them to the circles most remote, 115
 "So that thou see upon her throne the Queen
 "Who by this realm is worshipped and obeyed."
 I moved mine eyes, and as when morning breaks,
 The eastern part of the horizon shows
 With brighter light than where the sun descends, 120
 So, from some valley passing, as it were,
 To some high hill, I in the loftiest zone
 Saw one point brighter far than all around

And as that part where men the Chariot wait,
 Which Phaeton failed to guide, more brightly glows, 10
 And elsewhere light in measure growth had,
 So this pacific influence did flash
 In central brightness, whilst on every side
 Just in proportion shone a fiercer flame
 And at this centre with extended wings 15
 Equalling angels numberless I saw,
 Each with a joy and brightness of its own
 Them at their choral movements and their songs
 I saw with beauty such, that at the sight
 The eyes of all the other spirits were glad. 20
 And if I had as great a wealth of words
 As of imagination, still my pen
 Would dread to paint the least of her delights.
 When Bernard saw so curiously mine eyes
 Fixed and intent on Mary's quickening warmth, 25
 His own with such great love towards her turned,
 That mine became more ardent in their gaze.

CANTO XXXII

Baruch points out the tracks of the Old and the New Testament. He answers some doubts of those touching the presence of Ishmael in America. Marvellous legends of desecration.

- With loving eyes still fixed that nearly dead,
Although smacked, assumed the teacher's part,
And in these haly words began to teach --
- " The wound which Bessie Mary closed and healed,
" She at her feet so slow to look upon 2
" Opened, and by her disobedience healed.
- " In order of the seats, in the third rank,
" Below her sits both Rachel, and behold
" There also sits our Baruch himself,
- " Sarah, Rebecca, Judith, and with them 12
" Her from whom spring the Psalmist, who exclaimed
" *Not mine were mourning for his sin,*
- " Thou mayest perceive that downward seat by seat
" Succeed each other, as I naming each
" So by the Rose, descending leaf by leaf. 18

- " As down to it, so from the seventh step down,
 " In ordered sequence Hebrew women come,
 " Dividing all the patch of the flower ;
 " Evoked according to the way in which
 " Faith looketh upon Christ, these are the wall 10
 " Which make partition in the holy steps.
 " On that side where the flower is all complete
 " With its whole world's of foliage have their seats
 " Those who believed in Christ though yet to come ;
 " Whilst on the other, where by vacant space 20
 " Are set the wilderness, those are placed
 " Who saw Christ come already and believed
 " And so at this point the most glorious throne
 " Of heaven's high lady and the other seats
 " Behold it such a separation make, 30
 " So is the opposite, the seat of John,
 " Who, ever lady, in the desert dwelt,
 " Bore martyr's sufferings, and two years of hell ;
 " And him below, thus make partition fixed
 " Augustine, Francis, Benedict, and then 40
 " From rank to rank the rest in order down.
 " Now do thou mark God's providence divine,
 " For the two maintained aspects of the Faith
 " In His proportion shall the garden all.
 " And know that downward from the step which cuts 50
 " The two-divisions at their central space,
 " No one hath rest by merit of his own,

- " Whence is in the colour of the hair
75
" The grace is various, as the light appears
" These spirits with degrees of glory crown.
" Thus then, without all merit of their works,
" In different ranks of order are they placed,
" Differing else as fast by grace endowed. 80
" In the incipient ages of the world,
" With innocence, sublimity to make sure,
" No more was needed than the parent's faith.
" After the earlier ages passed away,
" Then to give strength unto their innocent wings, 85
" Was circumcision needful to the males.
" But when at length the day of grace arrived,
" Without completed baptism of Christ,
" Such innocence in limbs was retained.
" For now thy gaze upon the face which most 90
" Resembles Christ, for it alone is bright
" To make thee capable of seeing Christ."
I saw upon her face as great a shower
Of holy gladness by the angels brought,
Created through those heights sublime to fly, 95
Not all, whatever I had seen till then
With such an admiration held me bound,
Nor showed me anything so like to God;
And that sweet spirit, which descending first,
As *Maria gratia plena* sang, 100
Before her spread the glory of his wings,

An answer came to this devout chest

From every part of the celestial court,

So that all objects seemed more full of peace.

" Ah blessed father ! who dost deemest not

128

" For me thus low from that sweet place to come

" Which by decree eternal is thy seat ;

" Who is that angel who beholds our Queen,

" Looking with joy so great into her eyes,

" That all encountered he appears like thee !"

129

Thus the instructions once again I sought

Of Him, whom Mary made more beautiful,

Just as the star of morning by the sun.

He answered me—" Boldness and gentle grace,

" All that may be to angel or to soul,

130

" Is found in him, and so we wish it should ;

" For this is he who here is with the palm

" To blessed Mary, when the Son of God

" Willed that Himself should bear the load for man.

" But come thou now and with thine eyes observe

131

" What I am speaking, the reasonable peers

" Of this most holy empire and most just.

" These two who sit so high and fuller seem

" Of happiness because so near their Queen,

" Are as it were the rose's double root.

132

" He on the left hand who is nearest her,

" That father is whose during appetite

" Created man each woful bitterness to taste

- " Upon her right the ancient father see
 " Of holy Church, to whom by Christ was given 120
 " The keys in trust of that delightful fount.
 " And he who now before his hour of death
 " All the sad sorrows of the earthly spouse,
 " Won by the spear and by the cruel nails,
 " Lie near to him, and near the formless one 125
 " That leader, under whom on masses lived
 " The ungrateful people fickle, stiff of neck.
 " To Peter opposite see Anna sit,
 " With gazing on her daughter so content,
 " She sings Hosanna, but no eye she moves. 130
 " And fronting the great father of mankind,
 " Is seated Lucia, who thy holy moved,
 " That hour those eyelids drooped in downward flight.
 " But since the period of thy vision flows,
 " Here let us pause on the good unknown path, 135
 " While as he has the cloth we cut the robe,
 " And let us look towards the eternal Love,
 " That thou, as far as possible may pierce,
 " Beholding him, into the glorious light.
 " Truly, and best perhaps thou followest best, 140
 " Moving thy wings, and thinking to advance,
 " With prayer it needs thee to solicit grace,
 " The grace of her who hath the power to help;
 " And with affection do thou follow me,
 " So that thy heart be one with what I say;" 145
 And then his holy prayer he thus commenced

CANTO XXXIII

Bernart goes to the Virgin Mary. Bernart explained in vision beholds the ineffable mystery of the virgin Holy Child. In the arms of the virgin child he sees the form of a man. He desires to know how the Virgin child and human are united. A sudden flash of light reveals to him what he cannot describe. The vision is closed.

- “ O, Virgin Mother, daughter of thy Son,
- “ Humblest and greatest of created things,
- “ Purpose child of the eternal word,
- “ Then—then art thou who hath such glory brought.
- “ To human nature: He did not disdain
- “ Himself its Maker to become its work.
- “ Within thy womb reclineth was the love,
- “ The warmth of which has caused that blessed flower
- “ In overruling power to germinate.
- “ Here unto us thou art the ascending sun
- “ Of holy love, and on the earth below,
- “ Thou art the fount of ever living hope.
- “ Lady, so great thy might, so potent thou,
- “ Whosoever seeketh grace and works not thou,
- “ He will a light without the wings to fly

4

10

16

- " Thy bounty-masters not only succour bring
 " To him who asks it, but uncounted times
 " Has freely given before the prayer was made.
- " In thee is mercy, pity is thy name,
 " Glory supreme is thine, in thee is hinged
 " Whate'er of goodness in the creature lies.
- " He who here cometh from the lowest hell
 " Of the great universe, and who hath won
 " In the three realms, as thou, the spirit's love,
 " Pays unto thee for that high price of power
 " Which may enable him to lift his eyes
 " Unto the height sublime of heaven's bliss.
- " And I who never sight for aill did crave
 " Warmly as now for him, my prayers present,
 " And thus I pray, that these may not be null,
- " For thou must set him free from every cloud
 " Born of his mortal nature by thy prayers,
 " So that he clearly see the joy supreme.
- " I pray thee, too, oh Queen, with whom the will
 " Is equal with the power, that thou preserve
 " After such vision his affections sound.
- " Let thy protection human passion check ;
 " Behold how Beatrice, how many saints,
 " To make my prayer prevailing, shape their hands."
- Those eyes in which God taketh such delight
 Fixed on the speaker, made it seem indeed
 How very sweet to her was prayer devout.

They then were turned towards the Eternal Light,
 And into this may none believe that eye
 Of other creatures ever saw so clear. 40
 And I who was approaching to the goal
 Of all my longings, lost within myself,
 As happens oft, the ardour of desire.
 Then Bernard smiled, and made to me a sign
 That I should upward look, but I had done 45
 By my own impulse as his wishes willed,
 For now my power of sight bounding pure
 Did deep and deeper penetrate the ray
 Of the great Light Divine and very Truth
 From this time forward greater was my sight 50
 Than human speech, which at such vision fails,
 And to such glory memory coldest place.
 As he who in his slumber something sees,
 And the dream passing off, the impression holds,
 Although the dream itself return no more, 55
 So did I feel, for almost wholly gone
 My vision was, and yet within my heart
 Detailed the sweetness that shared was born
 Thus both the snow less form below the sun,
 And by the wind in the light stirring leaves, 60
 Thus was the sentence of the Sibyl lost.
 Oh, Light Supreme, who art so raised above
 The thoughts of mortals, to my memory grant
 A second glimpse of what Thou once appeared,

And make my tongue so eloquent of speech, 70
 That of Thy glorious self one spark at least
 It may convey to nations yet to come,
 For unto memory even that slight return,
 And in those verses even a feeble sound,
 Thy might victorious shall make better known 75
 I think, no overpowering was its force,
 I had been blinded by that living ray,
 Had I once sought to turn mine eyes aside
 And I remember I my courage roused
 Its glory to sustain, so that my gaze 80
 In vision met the Almighty infinite.
 Oh, gaze abounding whence the boldness came
 By which mine eyes did pierce the Eternal Light
 So far that vision there was wholly spent !
 In its abyss I saw together held, 85
 Bound in one volume, with the clasp of love,
 All that is spread throughout the world at large ;
 Accident, substance, and their qualities,
 By made ineffable as bound in one,
 What I describe gives but a feeble glimpse. 90
 The Essence universal of this knot
 Methinks I saw, because the more my pen
 On this enlarges, more of joy I feel.
 To me one moment more *Adrian* is
 Than ages twenty-five to that surprise 95
 When Neptune wondering *Argo's* shadow saw,

And then my mind in deep abstraction held,
 Gazed fixedly, unmovable, absorbed,
 And ever gazing more enraptured grew.
 This Light so fully dath the mind impress,
 100 That to be turned away to other things
 It is impossible it should consent;
 Because all good, the object of desire,
 Concentrates in it, and apart from this,
 That is defective which is perfect there.
 105 Henceforth more keenly shall mine eye behold,
 Even for such poor remembrances, than the child's,
 Whose tongue will fade its moisture at the breast;
 Set that the living light which I behold
 More than one aspect pure and simple here,
 110 For it is ever as it always was;
 But by the vision which was gaining strength
 Withers me, as I looked, I suffering change,
 That one sole aspect had the change to me.
 115 Within the essence of that holy light,
 Profound and deep, three circles I perceived
 In colour triple, in extent alike,
 As life from the life, one from one
 Of these selected second, the third like fire
 120 Breathed forth with equal energy from both.
 Ah! how powerless are my words, how weak
 To speak my thoughts! and these to what I saw
 How poor, and how inadequate the terms!

Oh, Light Eternal, rule Thyself within,
 Self understood alone, and by Thyself 125
 Knowing and known ; Thyself Thy love and joy !
 That circle which conceived and formed in Thee
 Gave the appearance of reflected light
 As little by me in close observance held,
 Within itself, of its own colour still, 130
 Seemed painted with the effigy of man,
 Wherein it wholly rivetted my gaze.
 As the Geometer with heart and soul
 To square the circle, make yet cannot find,
 With all his thought, the principle he needs, 135
 So did myself at this new vision stand ;
 I wished to understand the secret which joined
 Image to circle, how adapted there ;
 But my own wings were not for flight like thine,
 Had not my mind been striken by a flash 140
 Of light in which its wish was satisfied.
 The lofty vision here surpassed my power ;
 But as a wheel is moved in every part,
 So were desire and will controlled by this,
 The Love which moves the sun and other stars. 145

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